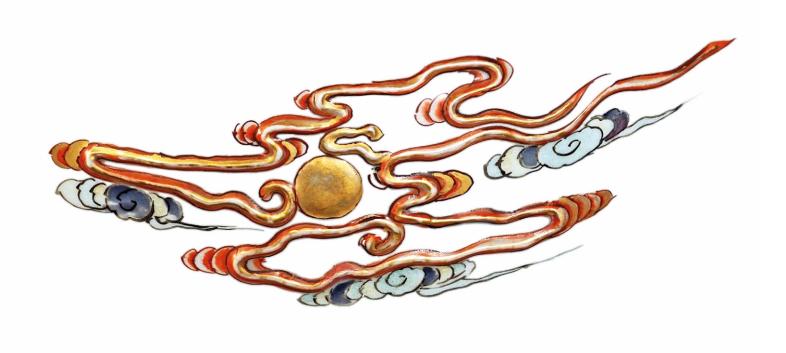
Ralph M. Chait Galleries INC.

CHINESE ART

ESTABLISHED 1910



SPRING 2023



Cover:

Extraordinary Large Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Vase and Cover Shown: one of the pair (and detail above) KANGXI PERIOD, CA: EARLY 18TH CENTURY Height without base: 34 inches (86.5 cm.) Height with base: 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (110.5 cm.) See No. 14 for both and full information.

Asia Week and Spring 2023

We are pleased to present our Spring 2023 Exhibition in conjunction with Asia Week New York. We are fortunate to have acquired some particularly beautiful and rare examples of Chinese porcelain and works of art.

The exhibition includes an extraordinary pair of large Famille Verte Porcelain Vases and Covers with relief decoration; an important pair of Powder Blue Vases; and glorious objects and porcelain figures, including a superb pair of Nodding Ladies, figural representations of Louis IV and Mme. de Maintenon; and (by remarkable chance) a rare pair of "Urne Mysterieuse" Pistol Handled Vases.

Many of these pieces have notable provenance back into important American and European collections. Several

were with our gallery in prior generations, which is always a wonderful occurrence. In all, we are fortunate to have such a variety of types and forms that will appeal to collecting tastes in many directions.

We look forward to welcoming many people to our exhibition and back to New York after a prolonged absence with travel restrictions during the covid period. We will also be exhibiting at the Philadelphia Antiques Show in late April that will take place again at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Whether in person or via our website and publications, we welcome your visit and enquiries.

Steven and Andrew Chait



Chinese Sancai Glazed Biscuit Porcelain Figure of Budai

KANGXI PERIOD, EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Finely modelled in the full round. With great detailing to robes; his face with smiling expression.

Height: 5 % inches (13.6 cm.)

Similar examples: A.W. Bahr Collection, pub. 1911. Of note, early Meissen examples are known based directly upon this type.





2. Very Rare Chinese Verte Glazed Porcelain Playing Fu Lion

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Finely modelled with great detail; the Fu Lion displaying a remarkable animated pose. This is one of the rarest models of these figures that are seldom encountered today outside of museum collections.

Height: 5 ¼ inches (13.3 cm.) Length: 5 ¾ inches (14.5 cm.) Ex: French collection from the early 1900's (acquired from Wannieck)

Similar and related examples: the collections of Octave du Sartel, France; Leonard Gow, Scotland; Richard Bennet, England; S. Wassermann, Germany; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and two in a private American Collection acquired from our gallery.



3. Fine Pair of Chinese Qingbai Glazed Vases and Covers

SOUTHERN SONG DYNASTY, CA: 11TH/12TH CENTURY

Each finely modeled and with attached animal and figural decoration around the neck and shoulder, one with a tiger (symbol of Earth); the other with a dragon (symbol of Heaven), and a reclining figure. Each surmounted by a conical shaped cover with a crane finial. Jars such as these were likely used to hold wine.

Height: 14 inches (36 cm.)

Ex: South American Collection (acquired from our gallery in the early 1980's) Prior with John Sparks, London



4. Chinese Unglazed Pottery Figure of a Kneeling Camel

TANG DYNASTY, AD 618-907

Finely modelled in the full round and in wonderful animated pose, with head turned up towards the viewer. The camel is laden with a pack of goods and tent planks, demonstrative of the exotic Silk Road trade of the period, All finely detailed.

Height: 10 ¼ inches (26 cm.)

Ex: American Collection.



5. Chinese Unglazed Pottery Court Lady

TANG DYNASTY, AD 618-907

Finely fashioned in the full round. The classic corpulent Lady is elegantly dressed in a long robe with a pointed shoe protruding from beneath the hem, and her hair arranged in a stylish coiffure. Her face is well modelled with subtle features and with a serene expression.

Retaining vestiges of slip decoration.

Height: 18 1/2 inches (47 cm.)

Ex: European Collection (acquired from Gisèle Croës, Belgium in the late 1990s).



6. Chinese Wucai Glazed Porcelain Vase and Cover

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, CA: 1640

Decorated with Court Ladies and Boys celebrating the New Year in the garden of a palace. All boldly painted in deep enamels.

Height: 16 inches (40.5 cm.)

Ex: Belgian Noble collection



7

7. Pair of Large Chinese Verte Glazed Biscuit Porcelain Fu Lions

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Finely modelled in the full round, and forming a true pair, right and left; male and female. The male is depicted with his front paw resting upon a brocaded ball; the female, with a cub clambering at her side. Each supports a *Gu* form incense holder on its back that is decorated with *Shou* and *Fu* symbols for long life good fortune. Their faces display wonderful animated expressions, and their heads are finely detailed with multi-colored curls.

Height: 14 1/2 inches (37 cm.)

Ex: South American Collection (acquired from our gallery in the 1980s)

Prior in a British Collection.

Two almost identical examples with similar colored curls but without the joss stick holders are in the Gulbenkian Collection, Lisbon and the Lady Lever Art Gallery, England. Smaller versions with the holders are in the historic collection of Augustus the Strong and another is illustrated in *La Porcelaine de Chine* by Octave du Sartel, 1881.



8. Fine Large Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Plate

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Of broad saucer shape and impressive size. Beautifully decorated with a central reserve of two scholars in a landscape setting, surrounded by reserves of flowering plants, deer, and mythical animals- all symbolic of scholarship, beauty, good fortune, and long life. Of particularly fine quality.

Diameter: 18 ½ inches (47 cm.)

A slightly larger but virtually identically decorated plate is in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London from the Salting Collection. Another is in the Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul illustrated by Krahl and Ayers, 1986. Vol. III, No. 2873.



9. Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Saucer Dish

SHUNZHI/ EARLY KANGXI PERIOD, CA: MID-17TH CENTURY

Boldly decorated with a seated *Qilin* in an outdoor setting. The animal, breathing fire and with animated expression, *Qilin* were auspicious mythical beasts with composite features of horns, hooves, and bushy tail. They appeared at times of good government and prosperity (an intended symbolism of this period as the new Qing dynasty that was at its start). The underfoot, with characteristic channeled foot ring of the period.

With narrow banded rim in metal.

Diameter: 13 3/4 inches (35 cm.)



10

10. Fine and Rare Pair of Chinese Powder Blue Porcelain Bottle Vases

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1700

Decorated with reserves of *Qilin* standing on rocky promontories. All finely painted in underglaze blue and set against a flocculent powder blue ground.

Height: 16 % inches (42.5 cm.)

Ex: J.P. Morgan Collection

Ex: James Garland Collection

Exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: late 19th century through 1914.

Illustrated in color and described in the J.P. Morgan Catalogue, Vol I, 1904, Pl. IV, Case V, Nos. 93 and 94.

Illustrated in The Connoisseur, July, 1902, p. 139

Illustrated and described: *Garland Collection of Chinese Porcelain*, by Getz, 1895, p. 38.



11

11. Fine Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Phoenix Tail Vases

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Each decorated with different figural scenes. The first- with the historic handsome scholar-poet Yue Pan arriving in a palace courtyard and being welcomed by his female admirers who throw fruits to him in greeting. The second, with a court scene taken from a classic tale showing officials meeting with the Emperor. All finely and delicately painted.

Height: 18 1/4 inches (46.5 cm.)

Ex: Important Private American Collection Ex: Private mid-Western Collection (1960's) Both times acquired from Ralph M. Chait Galleries Prior from an English Collection

A very similar vase with interior scene is in the Palace Museum, Beijing.



12. Fine and Rare Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Plates

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Beautifully decorated: the first with a *Qilin* (a mythical animal of good omen) running in an outdoor setting; the second with a Tiger (or Leopard) chasing a bird in a similar setting; the cavetto of each most unusually decorated with reserves in the shape of unfurled scrolls with scenes of figures in landscapes. All set upon a seeded green ground.

The decoration is superbly painted in deep and vibrant tones.

Diameter: 10 1/2 inches (27 cm.)

Ex: Eisenbach-Erie Collection, England (early 20th century)

13. Chinese Famille Verte Glazed Biscuit Porcelain Figure of Guandi

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

Modelled in the full round and posed seated in a framed throne in an attitude of Royal Ease, with one knee slightly raised. The Guandi, with fine and detailed features, wears an elaborate robe and armor with dragon decoration. All boldly painted in deep enamels. A rare type and of fine quality.

Height: 9 ¾ inches (24.7 cm.) Ex: Important Private American Collection



14. Extraordinary and Rare Pair of Large Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Vases and Covers KANGXI PERIOD, EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Exuberantly decorated in partial relief with auspicious animals and emblems including Deer (for long life and progeny); the Three Friends of Winter (positive qualities of a person); auspicious Clouds and the Sun at its apogee (for success, good fortune, and long life). All finely painted in bright enamel colors.

With European 20th century bronze bases.

Height without bases: 34 inches (86.5 cm.) Height with bases: 43 ½ inches (110.5 cm.)

Ex Coll: Giorgio Enrico Falck (1866-1947), Italy, a steel magnate and later politician.

Acquired by him in London in the beginning of the 20th century and then descended in the family.

Similarly decorated large porcelain jardinières may be found in the historic collection of Augustus the Strong, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland that are now in the Zwinger Museum, Dresden. Another pair mounted in ormolu is in the British Royal Collection, from the time of George IV and situated in the Banquet Hall at Brighton Pavilion. They are illustrated and described by Ayers, Chinese and Japanese Works of Art in the Collection of Her Majesty the Queen, Vol. I, No. 511-12.

NOTE: Porcelains with relief decoration are very rare and often of superior quality, indicating they were made as a special order for the Court or high end European trade. Another vase with Immortal decoration from the Jie Rui Tang Collection is illustrated and described by: Jeffrey P. Stamen and Cynthia Volk with Yibin Ni, A Culture Revealed: Kangxi-era Chinese Porcelain from the Jie Rui Tang Collection, 2017, pl. 80. (sold at Sotheby's March 20, 2018) and a slender vase from a private collection formerly with Marchant was sold at Sotheby's March, 23, 2022. Other more conventional rouleau vases with relief decoration of Sacred Antiques are known including on in the Palace Museum, Beijing.







15. Rare and Superb Famille Verte Glazed Japanese Porcelain Figure of Takenouchi No Sukune

CA: MID-19TH CENTURY

Of extraordinary quality. Finely modelled in the full round. The sage is dressed in a long robe with multi-layered and textured sleeves. Decorated in vivid famille verte and rouge de fer enamels in Kangxi style; his face left en biscuit.

Takenouchi No Sukune was a famed semi-mythological leader from the 1st century, particularly connected with a foray into Korea. He was deemed spiritually connected and said to have attained the age of 250 years.

Height: 18 inches (45.7 cm.)

Ex: Private Collection

Ex: Ralph M. Chait Galleries, 1970's

Ex Collection: Ludwig Treitel (illustrated frontispiece of the Treitel sale in New York on April 11 and 12, 1913, No. 248).

An almost identical figure but decorated only in glazed white is in the Walter's Gallery, Baltimore and is illustrated and described by Bushell, 1896: *Oriental Ceramic Art, W.T. Walters' Collection*, Section 9, PL. XCVI.



16. Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Vases

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1700

Decorated with ornate patterned designs likely based on textile shapes and motives, with floral decoration in white set against a green ground; the necks with similar white flower designs set against a rouge de fer ground.

Height: 15 and 15 % inches (37.8 and 39.3 cm.)

Ex: American Collection

Almost identical examples are in the historic collection of Augustus the Strong now at the Zwinger Museum, Dresden.

17. Pair of Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Boxes

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Decorated with varying floral reserves and diaper bands in striking design.

Height: 4 1/2 inches (11 cm.)

Identical examples from the historic collection of Augustus the Strong are in the Zwinger Museum, Dresden, and in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.





18. Unusual Pair of Chinese Famille 1

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Verte Porcelain Plates

Each likely based on a European metal form with a flat center area and flanged rim. Decorated with varying scenes of a Court Lady and child in a palace garden. The flanged rims, with an ornate *millefleur*-like design.

Diameter: 8 3/4 inches (22.4 cm.)

19. Pair of Chinese Sancai Glazed Porcelain Chicken Ewers

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Finely and realistically modelled, with lids with lotus form base and chicks forming the finial. Decorated in patterned designs to simulate the feathers of the birds. Of very fine quality with great detailing and deep color.

Height: 5 ½ inches (14 cm.)
Ex: French Collection
Similar examples: Metropolitan
Museum of Art and the Allard
Collection, France (early 1900's)





20. Fine and Rare Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain Piggyback Boys

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Modelled in the full round. Decorated in elaborately painted robes in vibrant tones. Their faces, with well-defined features and pleasing smiling expressions.

Height 9 1/4 inches (23.5 cm.)

Ex: American Collection

Ex: Chinese Porcelain Company. 1990's

Similar quality examples: Taft Musuem, J. Goldschmidt Collection, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Collection

21. Chinese Famille Verte Porcleain Bowl

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-177

Beautifully decorated on the lower section with flowerheads and tendrils set against a yellow ground; the upper section, with similar trefoil arabesque like reserves against a green ground with additional flowers and tendrils between them. All painted in vibrant deep enamels, the style clearly based upon Middle Eastern designs.

Diameter: 8 1/2 inches (21.7 cm.)

Plates with this type of decoration are known as well as related garlic neck vases- all presumably made for the Middle Eastern market. However, they are also found in European collections where they were equally prized for their vibrant decoration and exoticness.







22

22. Fine Pair of Large Green Glazed Porcelain Bottle Vases

CA: LATE 18TH/ EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Finely and thinly potted, and of beautiful form. Each decorated overall in a uniform camellia leaf green glaze of emerald tone, with a characteristic fine and minute craquelure. The mouths dressed in a brownish finish to simulate metal.

Of unusual large size and elegant form.

Height: 18 inches (45.8 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

Ex: Ira and Nancy Koger Collection (acquired from our gallery in the early 1970's).

Ex Collection: Mrs. Harry Payne Bingham

Ex: Col. Oliver H. Payne Collection

Ex: Duveen Brothers, New York

Exhibited on loan: Metropolitan Museum of Art

With collection labels including a Chinese collection label to one on the underfoot and museum inscriptions.



23

23. Rare and Very Fine Pair of Chinese Famille Rose Porcelain Nodding Head Figures QIANLONG PERIOD, CA: MID-18TH CENTURY

Depicting two Court Ladies and forming a true pair, right and left. Each finely modelled and with a removable nodding head. The Ladies are dressed in long light blue robes with reserves of landscapes in pink and blue. Each holds a handkerchief in one hand and *rui* scepter in the other.

Of particularly fine quality.

Height: 16 inches (40.5 cm.)

Figures of this type and quality are extremely rare, particularly to have survived as a pair. An almost identical pair are in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London: gift of C.N. Ades, 1978.



24. Rare and Important Pair of Chinese Export Porcelain Figures

KANGXI PERIOD, EARLY 18TH CENTURY

Traditionally identified to represent Louis XIV and Mme. de Maintenon. The figures are likely based upon French aristocrats depicted in the engravings of the famed Bonnart brothers that were brought to China and copied onto porcelain plates and vases usually in blue and white. The exceptional quality and colors of these types of figures make them particularly prized. They are also to our knowledge the earliest figural depictions of Westerners in Chinese porcelain made at Jingdezhen.

Height of the male: 9 ½ inches (24.5 cm.) Height of the woman: 8 % inches (22.5 cm.)

Similar examples: the Copeland Collection now at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and the historic collection of Augustus the Strong now the Zwinger Museum, Dresden; and the Musee National Adrien-DuBouche, Limoges.





25

25. Rare Pair of Chinese Export "Urne Mysterieuse" Pistol Handled Vases and Covers

CA: 1795

Of classic form, each with a central medallion- painted in grisaille showing an urn under a willow tree (a sign of mourning). The profile of the base the urn has a secret design showing the silhouettes of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The other side has a medallion with a scenic vignette. The urns otherwise decorated in relief with swags in blue, and borders with leaves and stars in blue, red, and gold; the bases in faux marble.

Height: 14 1/8 inches (37.8 cm.)

The hidden subject was based upon an anonymous engraving made during the French Revolution for loyalists as a remembrance of the deposed monarchy. For a similar pair of vases mounted in bronze from the Lataillade Collection, Paris and discussion, see: Beurdeley, *China Trade Porcelain*, 1962, p. 106, Pl. XIV



26

26. Rare Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Vase and Cover

KANGXI PERIOD, AD 1662-1722

Decorated overall with a large-scale lotus pond with herons, symbolic of purity, good fortune, and long life. All finely painted in varying tones of underglaze blue, much in the style of blue and white decoration from the iconic Chenghua period of the Ming dynasty (1464-1487).

Height: 16 inches (40.6 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

It is very rare to encounter a vase with this type of decoration. Plates are the more usual type, more often found with blue and white and occasionally in famille verte decoration.

27. Very Rare and Fine Blanc de Chine Porcelain Tree with Figures

LATE 18TH/ EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Meticulously modeled with branches and leaves; with removable seated Sage at one side; and a Child with large bird and deer on the other. The rock revealing a hidden animal form of a lion.

A remarkable work, masterfully crafted.

Height: 22 inches (55.8 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

Ex: Collection: J.T. Dorrance

A similar large example but missing figures is illustrated and described by P.J. Donnelly: *Blanc de Chine*, 1969, No. 64.





28. Chinese Famille Rose Quadrangular Porcelain Brush Pot

YONGZHENG PERIOD, AD 1723-1735

Decorated on each side with figures form a classic tale (quite likely *Romance of the Western Chamber*), all finely painted in bright enamels against a white ground. The top lip with a key fret design in red. The underfoot is glazed white.

An unusual type of brushpot, of rare shape and very beautifully decorated. Square formed brushpots were more complicated to construct and keep their shape during their firing.

Height: 5 1/4 inches (13.3 cm.)

29. Chinese Carved Soapstone Figure of The Daoist Immortal Lu Dongbin

CA: 17TH CENTURY

Finely carved in the full round. The Immortal is dressed in finely detailed robes and holds a flywhisk in his left hand, and has a sword on his back.

Height: 6 1/4 inches (16 cm.)

Soapstone figures of Daoist Immortals were popular in Europe from the 17th century on. Examples can be found in important old collections from the time and they were often placed in Kunstkammers or Collectors' Cabinets from the period. These would have contained a variety of beautiful and exotic objects from around the world.

30. Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Kraak-Ware Plate

MING DYNASTY, LATE 16TH/ EARLY 17TH CENTURY

Finely decorated with a central reserve of a pair of geese in a lotus pond, surrounded by smaller reserves of asters, patterned designs, and Precious Things.

All finely painted in particularly deep and vibrant underglaze blue.

Diameter: 11 1/4 inches (28.5 cm.)

Kraak was a Dutch corruption of the Portuguese word Carrack (trade vessel) that first brought these types of porcelains to Europe in the mid-16th century. At that time, there was no porcelain production in Europe, and ceramics such as this with their thinness and fine and exotic decoration created a sensation and eventual craze of collecting. Kraakware was for the most part intended for dining and became luxury status symbols in European homes and palaces. As such, it also is often observed in Old Master paintings from the period.





31. Fine Pair of Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Bowls

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

Decorated with the Eighteen Scholars of the Tang dynasty engaged in the Four Gentlemanly Attributes: calligraphy, painting, music, and the strategy game of *weiqi*. All finely painted in varying tones of underglaze blue.

Diameter: 8 inches (20 cm.)

The Eighteen Scholars of the Tang dynasty were the most noted cultural figures of their time. A Tang dynasty prince who was deemed unworthy to rule engaged with them and proved his worth.

This motif was used in the early Kangxi reign as well to show the Kangxi emperor's education in classic Chinese culture and his right to rule over the Chinese empire that the Qing (of Manchurian origin) had recently conquered.





32. Rare Pair of Blanc de Chine Porcelain Figural Groups Seated on Horses

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: 1690

Forming a true pair. Each decorated with a gentleman and lady riding upon a disproportionately tall horse, and smoking a pipe between them. With an additional figure or groom near the front of the animal.

Height: 12 1/4 inches (31.2 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection (acquired from our gallery in the early 1990's).

Ex: European Collection

A rare model. Related examples were in the famed Mottahedeh and P.J. Donnelly collections.

The subject of this pair is unusual with a hint of a illicitness. The horses' unusual size and toed feet (instead of hooves) suggests the artist was not fully familiar with the animal or originally intended to depict elephants or Buddhist lions that ended up being made as horses.

33. Rare Pair of Chinese Export Famille Rose Porcelain Pronk Jugs

CA: 1740

Each decorated with the "Arbor Scene" designed by the Dutch artist Cornelis Pronk, with a chinoiserie decoration showing Chinese ladies and gentlemen in a garden setting. All finely painted in bright enamels.

Height: 9 3/4 inches (24.8 cm.)

Ex: Private American Collection

Ex: Robert Lehman (1891-1969), the American financier and art collector. He was a former head of Lehman Brothers Investment Bank.

Note: This is a rare form for this subject and has counterparts in Delft ware jugs of the period, and interestingly seem connected to an original earlier Iznik form.

Pronk's designs were used by the Dutch East India Company to create services and objects in China and then export them to Holland as part of the China Trade of the time. The intent was a tighter control of decoration that retained the exoticness of China from a European perspective that would be easily marketable to the Dutch audience.



33

34. Chinese Blue and White Porcelain Monteith Bowl

KANGXI PERIOD, CA: LATE 17TH CENTURY

Decorated with reserves of flowering plants, all finely painted in deep underglaze blue.

With notched rim to hold and chill wine glasses.

Based upon an English silver form, this is one of the most distinct and prized forms in Chinese export porcelain.

Diameter: 12 1/2 inches (32 cm.)



35. Rare Group of Four China Trade Watercolor Paintings of Porcelain Production

CA: 1820

Part of a larger group in which each painting depicts a step in the process of making porcelain: Nos. 4 (Turning the Bowls); 5 (Shaping and Modeling Vases and Pots); 6 (glazing the Porcelain); and 8 (Decorating the Porcelain).

Each is mounted in a simple Western matte, and framed.

Size: 26 x 22 ¼ inches (66 x 56.5 cm.) framed

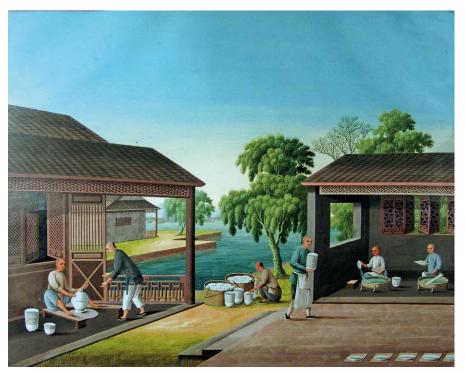
The paintings: approximately 18 3/4 x 14 3/4 inches (46.3 x 36.7 cm.)

Ex: American Collection and with shop labels on the reverse of each frame from The Old Print Shop (New York) from many years back.

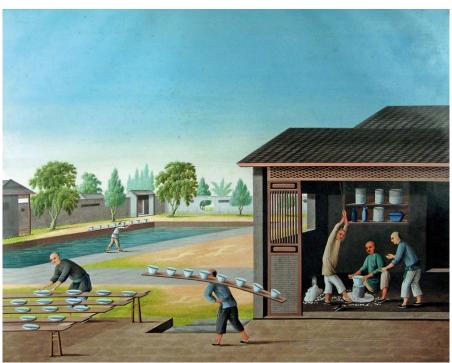
NOTE: The Peabody Essex Museum has a complete set that is illustrated and described by Carl Crossman in *The Decorative Arts of the China Trade*, 1991, p. 179, and Appendix G (pgs. 438 and 439).

Interestingly, the paper upon which these paintings were done was imported into China from England or the United States (see Crossman, p. 177).













RALPH M. CHAIT GALLERIES INC.

16 East 52nd Street 10th Floor New York, NY 10022

Tel: 212-397-2818

info@rmchaitgal.net www.rmchait.com