

Giuseppe Castiglione and Porcelains

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Abstract

Giuseppe Castiglione (Chinese name: Lang Shining, 1688-1766) was a famous missionary-painter at the Qing dynasty court, where he spent 51 years of his life under the Kangxi, Yongzheng, and Qianlong emperors. He was most noted for developing a style fusing Western elements with Chinese painting. During the eighteenth century, a period when global networking was growing considerably, Castiglione complied with imperial orders and had to delve into Chinese crafts as well. His relationship with the firing of imperial porcelains has long been noticed by scholars over the years, and the present study continues to explore this aspect from the perspective of porcelains, seeking to reconsider issues in this line of thought. In addition to reviewing crucial problems, the present study also re-examines and compares actual objects with existing documents to trace the porcelains that Castiglione might have participated in and submitted with issues therein on the exchange between the Qing court and the outside world.

Keywords: Lang Shining, painted enamelware, Tang Ying, Jun ware

(Translated by Donald E. Brix)