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Yongzheng Emperor, China
by GREG BALAGIAN



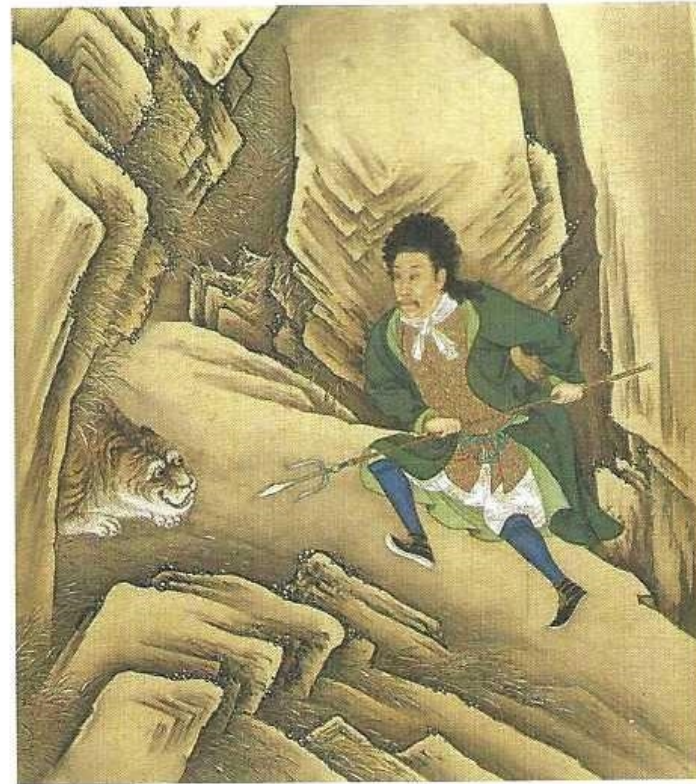
Yongzheng Emperor is in this 18th century Chinese painting wearing a European wig and dress, preparing to strike a tiger with a trident. A detail of the painting was issued by Dominica in 2020 (Scott 2824a). *The Mew Listing is on page 155.*

More than just prized for its beauty and majesty, the tiger bears great symbolism in Chinese culture. It is considered to be the king of all beasts symbolizing power. The tiger is also a symbol of luck. Considered to be an embodiment of "yang"—or positive energy.

The head of the tiger used to be painted on soldiers' shields to terrify the enemy. Tigers are also associated with the God of Wealth who is often seen sitting on a tiger in Asian art.

Tigers feature prominently in Chinese art, classical literature, and performance art. It is also the main character in many folk tales and proverbs.

Numerous stamps illustrate wonderful examples of Chinese art depicting tigers. In 2020 a stamp issued by the Commonwealth of Dominica shows an 18th-century Chinese



painting of the Yongzheng Emperor wearing a European wig and dress, preparing to strike a tiger with a trident from "Album of the Yongzheng Emperor in Costumes" by anonymous court artists. It is one of 14 album leaves painted on silk which is currently in the collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing.

The Yongzheng Emperor (1678-1735) was the fourth emperor of the Qing dynasty reigning from 1722 to 1735. A hard-working and merciless ruler, the Yongzheng Emperor created an effective government at minimal expense, during whose rule the power became fully concentrated in his hands. 🐾