



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Japanese Print

120 EUR



Signature : Utagawa Kunisada

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Paper

Length : 34,4 cm

Width : 24,7 cm

Description

This print comes from the kabuki scene of 47 ronin which represent Oboshi Yuranosuke ?????? played by actor Sawamura Chojuro V and his son rikiya ???? played by Iwai Kumesaburo III. This print was made in 1849.

The play is based on a true story that took place in 1701, it is called the "Aso incident" (????, Ako jiken), The daimyo Tsunayoshi Tokugawa (????) 1646-1709 ordered the daimyo of the Aso clan, Asano Naganori ????, (1667 - 1701) to hold rites in the house of the shogunate, during the preparations, Aso struck with his wakizashi the rite attendant Kira Yoshinaka. This act was punished by seppuku, the daimyo died and his clan was dissolved and these samurai became ronins. Some of these ronin formed a vengeance with Oishi Kuranosuke leading them, they

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prepared and foiled the spies and vigilance of their enemy after 11 months. Then they came knocking and attacked Kira's house. They decapitate him with the tanto with which their master committed seppuku. They rowed Kira's head to Kira's grave at Sengaku-ji Temple (???). They were sentenced to seppuku and were buried alongside their lord. They are the true samurai's eternal symbol of his loyalty, righteousness, and courage to lay down his life for his lord and in the face of death. The play does not respect the real story, the events take place during the Muromachi period (1333-1568) and the names of the characters have been changed to avoid shogunal censorship. The play takes place in 10-12 acts. This fiction added imaginary dramatic situations to historical fact. Thus in this print, it is the fictional character Oboshi Yuranosuke ????? and not Oishi Yoshio (???, April 24, 1659 - March 20, 1703) who was the steward of the Aso clan who is represented in a scene with his son who holds the tanto with which their late master committed seppuku. Utagawa Kunisada (???, 1786- January 12, 1865) also known as Utagawa Toyokuni III (?????) was one of the most popular ukiyoe painters of the 19th century and also one of the most prolific and most successful financially, ahead of Kuniyoshi ?? and Hiroshige ?. Utagawa Kunisada was born in Edo in 1786. His father, who died the following year, was an amateur poet of low reputation. He was accepted around 1800 as an apprentice by one of the greatest masters of woodblock drawing, Toyokuni. He began by making prints of actors, Bijin-ga, sumo-e, landscapes and warriors. He also produced a large number of shunga (erotic prints). He is said to have produced over 20,000 prints. In 1844-1845, Kunisada Utagawa changed his artist name, taking the name of his master, Toyokuni, and thus became Toyokuni III. He died in Edo after having trained several students like Toyohara Kunichika ??? and Utagawa Kunisada II ???.