

Iris Chan
Special Collections Librarian specol@lib.hku.hk

Gezantschap der Neerlandtsche Oost-Indische Compagnie aan den grooten Tartarischen Cham, den tegenwoordigen keizer van China./ by Mr Johannes Nieuhof. Amstelodami [Amsterdam] : Jacobum Meursium, 1668 [Latin]; 1673 [English]

English Title

An embassy from the East-India Company of the United Provinces, to the Grand Tartar Cham, Emperor of China deliver'd by Their Excellencies Peter de Goyer and Jacob de Keyzer, at his imperial city of Peking : wherein the cities, towns, villages, ports, rivers, &c. in their passages from Canton to Peking, are ingeniously describ'd by Mr Johannes Nieuhof



The supreme Monarch of the China tartarian Empire



Plant : Ginger

Call Number: U 951.071 N67

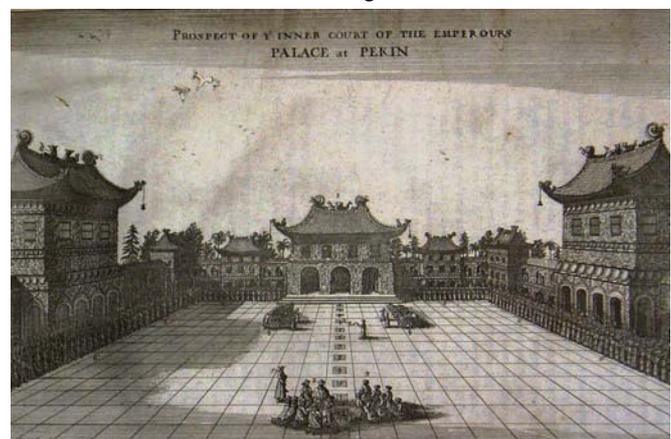
The account of the 1665 embassy was originally published in Dutch. Neiuhof was the official chronicler and draughtsman for the first embassy to China of the Dutch East India Company. His publication was no doubt the most important source of information about China in the seventeenth century. It was translated into many other European languages soon after it was published, and was also one of the very few non-Jesuit sources of the period.

The importance of Neiuhof's text lies in the scope of its treatment of the administrative, social and cultural life of the Chinese during the historic period that followed the fall of the Ming dynasty and the ascendancy of the Manchus under the dynasty of Ta-tsing with the Emperor being given the title of Shun-chi. It contains references to manufactures, customs, cultural activities as well as descriptions of animals and plants. Besides the text, it was said to have the finest illustrations ever done of an Eastern voyage to that date. The drawings were made on the spot, and include fine town views, curious flora and observations on the manners and customs of the Chinese.

The Rare Book Room of the Special Collections houses the translations in Latin (1668 edition) and English (1673 edition). To view the English translation online, visit the Early English Book Online (EEBO) at <http://www.lib.umi.com/eebo/image/58152>.



Peking



Palace at Peking