




## Through Wind and Rain

Image	Caption
	<p>Haizhu Fort in ruins, 1858. By Paul-Emile Berranger</p> <p>Near the banks of the Pearl River in southern Guangzhou, there was an emerged reef known as Haizhu Rock. In the 4th year of Qing emperor Shunzhi's reign (1647), a fort was built on the reef. The fort was damaged during the First Opium War. It was quickly rebuilt, but in 1858 it was demolished by the Anglo-French forces following their occupation of Guangzhou, as shown in the photograph. Only in 1888 was the fort reconstructed.</p> <p>After the Republic of China was founded, the site was used as an office of the military police before it was redeveloped as a park in the 1920s. In 1931, a new dyke was built in Guangzhou and Haizhu Rock became part of Yanjiang Road today.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC14.S.13)</p>
	<p>Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi Ye Mingchen, held captive by the British forces, 1858.</p> <p>In 1842 and 1844, Britain and France respectively forced the Qing government to sign the unequal Treaty of Nanking and Treaty of Whampoa, and reaped all sorts of gains in China. Yet, the two countries were not satisfied with what they had obtained and wanted to amend the treaties to further expand their rights in China. After the Qing government refused, they used different excuses to start the Second Opium War.</p> <p>In 1857, the Anglo-French forces invaded Guangzhou. At that time, Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi Ye Mingchen, a local government official on the front line of war, failed to deploy effective defence and carry out successful offensives. He also adopted an attitude of “would not fight; would not make peace; would not put up a defence; would not die; would not surrender; and would not flee”, and even misjudged the situation at the time. This in turn led to the fall of Guangzhou in late 1857.</p>

	<p>The British forces captured Ye Mingchen. In 1858, he was sent to India and placed under house arrest. This photograph shows Ye following his capture. During captivity, Ye refused to consume food provided by the Britons. After he finished the food he brought with him, he died on hunger strike in 1859.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1072-PAG107.S.1)</p>
	<p>Bo Gui in talks with Harry Parkes, 1859. By Pierre Joseph Rossier</p> <p>After the fall of Guangzhou to the Anglo-French forces, the Qing government removed Ye Mingchen as Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi, Governor of Guangdong Bo Gui acted in the role. The Qing government seemed to have retained control over Guangzhou, but in reality every decree promulgated by Bo Gui was scrutinised by a three-person committee headed by Harry Parkes, the British minister in Guangzhou. Bo Gui's administration was a puppet government controlled by the allies. This photograph shows Bo Gui (left) in talks with Parkes (right).</p> <p>(Reference no.: SC7.38)</p>
	<p>Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong, 1860. By Felice Beato</p> <p>This photograph was taken by Felice Beato, a photographer of the British army, in 1860 while he waited in Hong Kong to travel north. In the photo, Victoria Harbour is filled with battleships preparing for a new offensive against China by the Anglo-French forces.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC1.34)</p>
	<p>Full view of the north from Taku South Fort, 1860. By Felice Beato</p> <p>During the Second Opium War, the Qing army fought three important battles against the Anglo-French forces at Dagukou in 1858, 1859 and 1860, and only won the second battle.</p>

After the Qing army's defeat in the First Battle of Taku Forts in 1858, Sengge Rinchen, the Imperial Commissioner responsible for coastal defence, redeployed defence works at Dagukou. Damaged forts were repaired while new ones were added. This photograph shows the Qing forces' defence works at the estuary to stop the enemies from landing: sharp stakes, trenches and branches are arranged at intervals.

(Reference no.: AC1.13)



Beitang Fort used by the British forces as command post, 1860.  
By Felice Beato

Even though the Qing army strengthened defence before the Third Battle of Taku Forts in August 1860, the defending troops at Beitang Fort in the north were withdrawn, making it possible for the Anglo-French forces to break up the Qing camp from the rear. Following the capture of Beitang Fort, the British forces used it as a temporary command post. The discarded military supplies and equipment in the photograph shows the Qing forces retreated in haste.

(Reference no.: AC1.1)



Interior of the occupied Taku North Fort, 1860.  
By Felice Beato

Photographer Felice Beato took this photograph immediately after Taku North Fort fell to the Anglo-French forces. The battlefield was yet to be cleared, and the bodies of Qing troops littered on the ground bear witness to the horrifying brutality of the fighting. Judging from the scattered weapons of the Qing forces, their gingalls, crossbows and swords were no match for the allies' flintlocks. Yet, despite poor weaponry and tactics, the defending troops at the fort fought till the last breath.

(Reference no.: AC1.8)



Exterior of the occupied Taku North Fort, 1860.

By Felice Beato

The photograph shows the Qing fort guarded by a combination of trenches and sharp stakes along its perimeter. Tactically, this slowed the enemy's advance, but the Anglo-French forces eventually broke through the defence works and reached the fort. They then entered using scaling ladders.

(Reference no.: AC1.5)

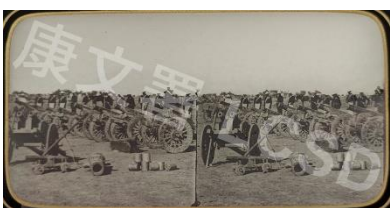


Turned around cannon, 1860.

By Felice Beato

After the Battle of Baliqiao, the elite forces of the Qing army were annihilated, and the Anglo-French forces advanced all the way to Beijing without any resistance. Just before the enemies arrived at Beijing, Emperor Xianfeng and his imperial entourage fled to Rehe in the name of conducting a hunting expedition. Prince Gong, Yixin, remained in Beijing for negotiations with the allies. The Anglo-French forces looted and burned down Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness). They occupied Beijing and turned the cannons on the city walls around, as shown in this photo, to aim at the city itself.

(Reference no.: AC1.17)



Qing cannons seized by the French, 1860.

By Charles Dupin

The Qing forces withdrew from Beitang Fort in haste, leaving behind large amounts of military supply and equipment. This photograph shows the many Qing cannons seized by the French at Beitang Fort.

This photograph was taken by Colonel Charles Dupin of the French forces. Dupin came to China with the French army during the Second Opium War, and took stereoscopic photos in Shanghai, Yantai, Tianjin, Tongzhou and Beijing. He was among the Anglo-French forces who looted Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness).

(Reference no.: SC4.4)



High Temple in Beijing, 1860s.

By Charles Frederick Moore

Puji Temple in Beijing was commonly known as the High Temple. It is recorded in history as the location for Harry Parkes' house arrest during the Second Opium War. While in Tongzhou attending negotiations on behalf of the Anglo-French forces in September 1860, the Chinese-speaking Parkes was captured by Qing troops. Wishing to use him to force the allies into withdrawing their troops, the Qing army held him in prison. When the allies advanced on Beijing, Parkes was sent to the High Temple to recuperate. Prince Gong, Yixin, hoped Parkes would write to the British army proposing truce and withdrawal of troops. Parkes was eventually released on 8 October 1860, a few days before the allied forces captured Beijing.

(Reference no.: AC7.A.31)



Ruins of Dashuifa (Grand Fountain), Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1870s.

During the Second Opium War, the Anglo-French forces looted Yuanmingyuan and burned down the imperial garden, leaving the site in ruins. This photograph shows the ruins of Dashuifa in Yuanmingyuan.

The most striking features of the Western Mansions in Yuanmingyuan were its fountains. Among them, the largest fountain, Dashuifa, stood in front of the Yuanying Guan (Palace of the Immense Ocean), as depicted in this photograph. In the background, water poured down from the large lion head originally in front of the stone gate in the form of a seven-layer water curtain. At the bottom was a fountain in the shape of a crabapple flower. There was a bronze sika deer in the centre, with eight nozzles spraying water from its antlers. Ten bronze hounds surrounded the deer as water shot out of their mouths onto the deer's body. This scene was commonly referred to as "hounds chasing the deer". Today, the few surviving stone columns have



become the symbol of Yuanmingyuan.

(Reference no.: GC34.S.10)



Yangquelong (House for Feeding Birds), Western Mansions, Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1870s.

By Thomas Child

As the Chinese name suggests, birds were kept in Yangquelong. Behind the archway depicted in the photograph, there were originally large aviaries built with bronze mesh on both sides, where rare exotic birds offered to the emperor as tributes were kept. Yangquelong featured both Chinese and Western architectural elements. The western façade took the form of a Chinese stoa, while the eastern façade was a Western-style archway with stone niches. Today, the foundation stones are the only traces of the building that once stood.

(Reference no.: AC56.33)



Xieqiqu (Palace of the Delights of Harmony), Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1877.

By Thomas Child

Xieqiqu was the first fountain to be completed in the Western Mansions of Yuanmingyuan. To the south of the main building, there was originally a large fountain in the shape of a crabapple flower, featuring bronze sheep and duck sculptures and stone sculptures of tail-flipping fish. Curved galleries connected the main building to two-storey structures on both ends, where bands performed.




(Reference no.: 1113-PEK27.S.1)



Ruins of Yuanying Guan (Palace of the Immense Ocean), Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1870s.

By Thomas Child

It is said that Emperor Qianlong designated Yuanying Guan as the residence of his beloved Consort Rong. A Western-style metal bed, a bathtub as well as Western toys and ornaments were added for

	<p>her, whereas Western persons and landscapes were painted on the glass of the doors and windows. Yet, all were destroyed in the fire set by the Anglo-French forces in 1860. Only a few desolate stone columns remain today.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC56.34)</p>
	<p>Ruins of Fangwai Guan (Belvedere), Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1870s. By Charles Frederick Moore</p> <p>It is said that Emperor Qianlong built Fangwai Guan for his beloved Consort Rong as a prayer hall. This photograph depicts the site more than a decade after it was looted and burned down by the Anglo-French forces: the main structure of the building, including the roof, was basically intact. In the decades that followed, however, the building was repeatedly sabotaged. Only the foundation remains today, whereas the stone bridge in front of the building has been moved to Weiming Lake in Peking University.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC22.S.15)</p>
	<p>Kuoran Dagong (Boundless Impartiality), Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness), 1879. By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p> <p>Kuoran Dagong was one of the few Chinese architectural clusters in Yuanmingyuan that had survived the fire set by the Anglo-French forces in 1860. Considering the devastation at the Western Mansions, it was a miracle that Kuoran Dagong, predominantly made up of wood and brick structures, had survived the calamity. Unfortunately, as a result of continued destruction in the following decades, the ruins of rockery are all that remain of Kuoran Dagong.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC9.A.25)</p>
	<p>Bird's-eye view of Kowloon Peninsula, 1870s. By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p>

In 1842, the Qing court was forced to sign the unequal Treaty of Nanking and ceded Hong Kong Island to Britain. In 1860, it was defeated once again in the Second Opium War and was forced to sign another unequal treaty, the Convention of Peking, which saw Britain occupy Kowloon Peninsula south of Boundary Street. In this photograph taken from Hong Kong Island, the buildings in Kowloon are still sparsely distributed.

(Reference no.: P.22)



Empress Dowager Cixi, 1903-1904.

By Xunling

Between 1903 and 1904, Xunling took more than 70 portraits of Empress Dowager Cixi, most of which are preserved in the Palace Museum in Beijing. Xunling was educated in France, where his father served as the Qing minister.

Xunling's younger sister Deling (also known as Elisabeth Antoinette White), who had been Empress Dowager Cixi's first lady-in-waiting, brought the negatives of some portraits to the United States. These were eventually acquired by the Freer Gallery of Art. Therefore, apart from the photographs given to foreign ambassadors, copies printed directly from the negatives are almost impossible to come by in the collector's market.

(Reference no.: GC18.P.1)



Prince Gong, Yixin, 1860.

By Felice Beato

When the Anglo-French forces were about to seize Beijing in 1860, Emperor Xianfeng fled to Rehe under the pretence of a hunting expedition. He ordered his half-brother, Prince Gong, Yixin, to stay in the capital and negotiate with the allies.

On 24 October 1860, Yixin signed the unequal Convention of Peking with Britain on behalf of the Qing government, China's interests suffered further. When he visited the Earl of Elgin, the commander of the British forces, on 2 November, Felice Beato, a photographer of the British forces, seized the opportunity and took



two portraits of him – one of which is on display here. Yixin was 27 years old when the portrait was taken.

Subsequently, Yixin oversaw the newly established Office for the General Management of Affairs Concerning the Various Countries and the Grand Council, becoming a prominent figure in China's internal and foreign affairs.

(Reference no.: AC1.31)



Prince Chun, Yixuan, 1880s.

By See Tay

Prince Chun, Yixuan, was the half-brother of Emperor Xianfeng. His brother, Prince Gong, who led the Grand Council, was dismissed by Empress Dowager Cixi after China's defeat in the Sino-French War. Yixuan was thus pushed to centre stage as he began to take charge of the nation's administrative and military affairs.

In 1885, Yixuan presided over the newly established Office for the General Management of Naval Affairs and contributed to the formation of the Beiyang Fleet. After the death of Emperor Tongzhi, Yixuan's son Zaitian was appointed heir to the throne and crowned as Emperor Guangxu. When Emperor Guangxu passed away, Yixuan's grandson Puyi ascended to the throne as Emperor Xuantong. Two of Yixuan's descendants became emperors.

(Reference no.: AC9.A.40)



Prince Qing, Yikuang, 1900.

By James Ricalton

Yikuang was the eldest son of Aisin-Gioro Mianxing, the Prince of the Blood of the Eighth Degree. After the successive passing of Prince Chun, Yixuan, and Prince Gong, Yixin, he became a prominent government official in charge of diplomatic and military affairs. Highly influential in the nation's internal and foreign affairs, he played a part in major events in modern Chinese history, such as negotiations for the unequal Boxer Protocol.

(Reference no.: 1016.1)



Li Hongzhang, 1870s.

Li Hongzhang was one of the most important politicians in modern Chinese history. He started his career training the Huai Army for the campaign against the Taiping Army, and later advanced to the posts of Governor-General of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang. He played a part in almost all of modern China's diplomatic events, and was responsible for building the Beiyang Fleet, once Asia's most powerful naval force. He also facilitated the opening of the first bank and first modern arsenal in modern China.

(Reference no.: AC8.A.46)



Prince Gong, Yixin, 1871.

By John Thomson

During the Second Opium War, Prince Gong, Yixin, negotiated and signed the unequal treaty, Convention of Peking, with the Anglo-French forces on behalf of the Qing government. After the devastating defeat, Yixin strongly advocated for China's strengthening, and became an important driving force for the Self-Strengthening Movement. With his support, the Qing government established the first modern military factories, formed the first modern army, opened the first modern school to train foreign language-speaking talents, sent the first government officials on a study trip and dispatched the first diplomatic mission. When this photograph was taken, Prince Gong was in charge of the Office for the General Management of Affairs Concerning the Various Countries, a key government body for facilitation of the Self-Strengthening Movement.

(Reference no.: AC10.1)



Archway at the Office for the General Management of Affairs Concerning the Various Countries, 1870s.

By Thomas Child

After its defeat in the Second Opium War, the Qing government established the Office for the General Management of Affairs Concerning the Various Countries, to handle difficult diplomatic situations. Though initially established to solve diplomatic problems, the office went on to play a crucial role in advancing the Self-Strengthening Movement, thereby bringing China closer to the rest of the world. This administrative agency was located in Dongtangzi Hutong, Beijing. The photograph shows the archway in the courtyard of the first hall. The inscription “*Zhong Wai Ti Fu*”, taken from the Book of Han, means peace and prosperity in China and abroad.

(Reference no.: AC56.22)



Key members of Binchun Mission, 1866.

By Bayard & Bertall Photo Studio, Paris

In 1866, when Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, was preparing to return to Britain on vacation, he made a proposal to Prince Gong, Yixin: he would take one representative of the Qing court to visit Europe and the latter could document his travels. The Office for the General Management of Affairs Concerning the Various Countries accepted the proposal and appointed Hart’s Chinese secretary Binchun as leader of a study mission. Members of the mission included Deming and Fengyi, students of the English college of the School of Combined Learning, Yanhui, a student of the French college, as well as Binchun’s son Guangying.

In March 1866, the study mission set off for Europe and returned to China in August, having visited a dozen European countries and meeting with Queen Victoria of Britain, the monarch of Sweden and others. This photograph of the members was taken in Paris, France. On the front row, from left, are Fengyi, Guangying, Binchun, Deming and Yanhui; on the back row, from left, are foreign officials of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service Emile de Champs, Edward Charles MacIntosh Bowra and Baron de

Meritens. The visit was the first time that the Qing government had sent a study mission abroad.

(Reference no.: 1006-PAG47.S.1)



Key members of Burlingame Mission, 1868.

By Mathew B. Brady

This photograph shows the first diplomatic mission dispatched by the Qing government to the West, led by outgoing Minister of the United States to China Anson Burlingame (front row, middle). Members of the mission included secretaries of the Office for General Administration Sun Jiagu (front row, 1<sup>st</sup> from left) and Zhigang (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left), French customs officer Emile de Champs (back row, 1<sup>st</sup> from left) and translator of the British legation in China John M. Brown (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left).

The mission departed China in February 1868 and returned in October 1870, after visiting 11 European and American countries and meeting with Queen Victoria of Britain, Emperor Napoleon III of France, Wilhelm I of Prussia and others. Besides the pictured personnel, members of the mission also included students of the School of Combined Learning.

Burlingame died of illness in February 1870 while the mission stopped in Russia, and he was succeeded by Zhigang as leader of the group. The first diplomatic mission dispatched by the Qing government, marked China's first step towards the international community and Western diplomacy.

(Reference no.: 220-CC.S.40.1)



First group of students of the Chinese Educational Mission, 1872.

Yung Wing, a Yale University graduate of 1854, suggested the Qing government send youngsters to study in the United States. His proposal was supported by Zeng Guofan and Li Hongzhang. Between 1872 and 1875, four groups of a total of 120 carefully selected youngsters were sent to study in the United States. Their average ages were around 12 and 13, whereas 70 percent of the students originated from Guangdong province. Upon their return



to China, many of the students were successful in their respective disciplines, including foreign affairs, education, the navy as well as the mining and railway industries. Railway expert Zhan Tianyou and diplomat Liang Dunyan, aged 12 and 15 respectively, were also among the first group of students of the Chinese Educational Mission.

(Reference no.: 989-PAG30.S.1)



Ge Kunhua, 1879.

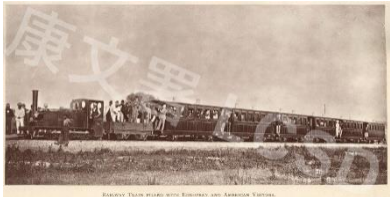

In 1879, Edward Bangs Drew, an American working at the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, suggested to Harvard University they should hire Ge Kunhua, a translator and Chinese teacher at the British embassy in Ningbo, as Chinese instructor. A gifted poet, Ge Kunhua offered Chinese poetry courses at Harvard University. He also wrote Chinese teaching materials entitled “*Huazhi Yingwen (English with Chinese characteristics)*”. Unfortunately, Ge succumbed to pneumonia after two years of service in the United States. Over time, the books he donated to Harvard University developed into Harvard-Yenching Library, the most important Chinese studies collection in the United States.

(Reference no.: 199-CC.S.16.1)



Factory of Jinling Machine Manufacturing Bureau, Nanjing, 1871.  
By John Thomson

The Qing government implemented the Self-Strengthening Movement from 1861 to the 1890s, with the aim of strengthening the nation using Western methods, and the production of modern weapons was considered most important. Li Hongzhang was well aware of the power of Western weapons during the battles between the Huai Army and the Taiping Army. In 1862, he founded Shanghai Foreign Artillery Bureau, where the production of guns and ammunition was managed by foreigners. In 1865, Li, the then Governor-General of Jiangnan and Jiangxi, relocated the main workforce of the arsenal to Nanjing. The smaller arsenals in Shanghai and Suzhou were merged into Jinling Machine Manufacturing Bureau. Besides bullets and shells, the factory also produced breech-loading guns and machine guns among other

	<p>weapons modelled on the most advanced weapons in Europe.</p> <p>(Reference no.: A12.A.32.3)</p>
	<p>Inauguration of Woosung Railway, 1876. By William Saunders</p> <p>This photograph shows foreign expatriates in Shanghai taking a test ride on the Woosung Railway, the first railroad in China, at its inauguration. People even packed the coal compartment, and at least six passenger compartments followed. However, the Woosung Railway was only in operation for just over a year. The Qing government bought the railroad claiming no permission had been granted for its construction, before demolishing it.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1202-SHA67.A.5)</p>
	<p>Gunboat <i>Delta</i> on sea trial, 1876.</p> <p>In 1875, while building the Beiyang Fleet, Li Hongzhang accepted the proposal of Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, to acquire two Rendel gunboats from Britain. Despite its small displacement, the gunboat was equipped with a large calibre cannon. The vessels were delivered to China in 1876. Provisionally named <i>Alpha</i> and <i>Delta</i> by the shipyard in Britain, they were renamed <i>Longxiang</i> and <i>Huwei</i> by Li Hongzhang. This photograph shows the <i>Delta</i> on sea trial in Britain.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1494-LC267.S.1)</p>



Chinese women at the 1867 Paris Exposition, 1867.

Bertall & Cie Photo Studio, Paris

The first world exposition was held in London in 1851. Prior to the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 held in Philadelphia, United States, China did not have an official presence at the exposition, but Chinese people did attend. Chinese merchants and the non-government sectors also took part in the exposition, showcasing Chinese products.

Take the fourth world exposition held in Paris in 1867 as example. The Qing court, having declined the invitation from France, did not take part in the exhibition, but French sinologist, Marquis d'Hervey de Saint-Denys, volunteered to put together the Chinese Pavilion. He then asked Baron de Méritens of France, who worked in the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, to form a civilian delegation including three tea ladies to attend the event. A pop-up tea house – in today's language – was opened in the pavilion, causing a sensation in Paris. The two pictured women are tea ladies from Fujian responsible for performing Chinese tea ceremony. This photograph, taken in a studio in Paris, shows them in full costume.

(Reference no.: 343-CDV.S.76)



Chinese exhibition area in the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 held in Philadelphia, United States, 1876.

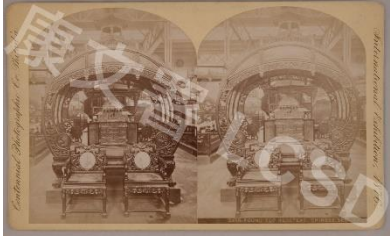
Centennial Photographic Co., the United States

In 1876, the Qing court sent Chinese government officials to the world exposition, held in Philadelphia, for the first time. The merchandise displayed at the fair filled 720 boxes.

This photograph shows the Chinese exhibition area: the words “Great Qing Empire” can be seen on the wooden monumental archway. The decoration in the exhibition area has a distinct Chinese accent, with the display cabinets drawing influence from Chinese temple structures. A variety of items, including silk, ivory sculptures, porcelain, lacquerware and tea from various provinces, are showcased.

Meanwhile, more than 100 Chinese children attending school in the United States visited the exposition, accompanied by their teachers, and spoke with the Chinese official Li Gui.

(Reference no.: SC8.7.1)



Chinese exhibition area in the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 held in Philadelphia, United States, 1876.

Centennial Photographic Co., the United States

The pictured Moon Bed with a dome-shaped canopy was one of the acclaimed exhibits in the Chinese exhibition area. Crafted in Ningbo, the bed features extensive sophisticated carvings inlaid with ivory. It was sold during the exposition and is now in the collection of Peabody Essex Museum in the United States.

(Reference no.: SC8.6.1)



China Pavilion at the 1878 Paris Exposition, France, 1878.

By Emile Tourtin

The Chinese government took part in the 1878 Paris Exposition. Compared to the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 held in Philadelphia, United States, China built its own pavilion this time and no longer shared an exhibition hall with other countries. This photograph shows the China Pavilion at the time.

(Reference no.: MC4.3)



China Pavilion at the 1878 Paris Exposition, France, 1878.

By Emile Tourtin

This photograph shows the interior of the Chinese Pavilion. The decoration has a distinct Chinese accent, whereas a wide variety of objects are on display, including porcelain, enamel ware and palace lanterns. Porcelain, tea, antique bronze ware, sculptures and ivory folding fans, among other products, were sold in the China Pavilion.

(Reference no.: MC4.11)





Battleship *Zhenyuan* berthed in a shipyard in Lushun Port, 1895.  
By the Military Photography Team of Japan

The ironclad battleship *Zhenyuan* was one of the Beiyang Fleet's two flagships, was ordered from Germany in 1880. Asia's number one battleship at the time, it was delivered to China in 1885.

In 1894, Japan used issues with Korea as an excuse and waged war against China. During the war, known in history as the First Sino-Japanese War, the *Zhenyuan* damaged the Japanese flagship *Matsushima*, forcing it to withdraw from battle. However, when the ship entered the harbour on 14 November 1894, the hull was damaged in multiple places. Its captain Lin Taizeng took responsibility and committed suicide. Subsequently, the Japanese forces seized the *Zhenyuan* and incorporated it into their fleet.

The Japanese army towed the *Zhenyuan* to a shipyard in Lushun Port. Pictured in this photograph, the chalk marks on the hull indicate where the ship has been hit by shrapnel and requires repair.

(Reference no.: 984.12)



Battleship *Zhenyuan* berthed in a shipyard in Lushun Port, 1895.  
By the Military Photography Team of Japan

This photograph shows the ironclad battleship *Zhenyuan* berthed in Lushun Port. The bow of the ship was equipped with a sharp, sturdy ram. In the 19th century, naval tactics emphasised ramming and such a design represented first-class combat power. On either side of the bow, a double-dragon symbolising China can be seen. The *Zhenyuan* was equipped with cannons at the bow and stern, and on both sides. Notably, the two people standing on the side of the ship show how massive the ironclad battleship was.

(Reference no.: 984.13)



Scuttled battleship *Dingyuan*, 1895.  
By the Military Photography Team of Japan

The *Dingyuan*, was the flagship of the Beiyang Fleet. Ordered from Germany by the Qing government, it was the most powerful warship in East Asia at the time and was hailed as the “Number one Ironclad in the World”. In 1886, the ship was berthed in Nagasaki, Japan, for maintenance. The Japanese people who saw it was held in awe. However, during the First Sino-Japanese War, the *Dingyuan* was damaged by Japanese torpedo boats and subsequently ran aground, and its captain, Liu Buchan, ordered the ship to be scuttled before committing suicide. This photograph shows the damaged *Dingyuan* aground.

(Reference no.: 984.40)



Interior of torpedo arsenal in Lushun Port, 1895.  
By the Military Photography Team of Japan

Along with the ironclad battleships *Dingyuan* and *Zhenyuan*, the Qing government also ordered the most advanced torpedo boats from Germany, two for each ship. The torpedo head was usually stored separately from the body – the torpedo would only be assembled when the ship was armed.

(Reference no.: 984.10)



Naval base on Liugong Island, 1895.

Liugong Island occupies a strategic and easily defended position at the mouth of Weihaiwei Bay. After the Beiyang Fleet was formed, the Qing government set up a naval base on the island. During the First Sino-Japanese War, however, the Japanese forces launched a land attack and seized the coastal forts in Weihaiwei before eventually occupied Liugong Island.

(Reference no.: 983.A.10)



Ruins of the Garden of Ding Ruchang, 1895.

With the establishment of the naval base on Liugong Island, Ding Ruchang, commander of the Beiyang Fleet, moved to the island with his family. Their residence was built on a slope not far from the naval base. The home had a garden, a pond with rockery and a pavilion on either side of the pond. The landscape was destroyed after Weihaiwei fell to Japan. As shown in the photograph, the rockery in the pond has collapsed, and the garden is overgrown.

(Reference no.: 983.A.14)



Fort destroyed by Japanese forces, 1895.

By the Military Photography Team of Japan

The port of Weihaiwei was guarded by Liugong Island, its greatest weakness lied in the shore behind the port: whoever occupied the high ground on the shore controlled the entire port. Therefore, the Qing forces built several forts on nearby hills and introduced new coastal defence guns from Germany. Ironically, the Japanese army's tactics in its attack of Weihaiwei called for land control. The coastal forts were seized and most of the artillery was sabotaged, as in the fort depicted in this photograph. The Japanese forces then turned the remaining firearms at the Beiyang Fleet in the harbour, bombarding the vessels and besieging the Beiyang Fleet on land and at sea.

The Qing government suffered setbacks in the First Sino-Japanese War, and was forced to sign the Treaty of Shimonoseki with Japan in 1895. The first unequal treaty between China and Japan stipulates land cessions and indemnities far exceeding any unequal treaties China had signed with other countries. Japan obtained huge gains as a result of the treaty, fuelling its ambition to invade China further.

(Reference no.: 984.32)



Li Hongzhang and his entourage in Russia, 1896.

In 1896, the Qing government sent a diplomatic mission headed by Li Hongzhang to attend the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. After more than a month in Russia, the mission travelled to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Britain, the United States and Canada, returning to China about six months later. Li was 74 years old that year. Western newspapers claimed he brought a coffin with him just in case. This photograph of the mission was taken in Moscow. Seated in the centre is Li Hongzhang, with his adopted son Li Jingfang on his right and his son Li Jingshu on his left.

(Reference no.: 943-MS31.1)



Portrait of Li Hongzhang, 1896.

By Chalot Photo Studio, Paris

In 1896, Li Hongzhang and his entourage travelled to Europe after completing their diplomatic mission in Russia. This portrait of Li was taken in France. On a closer look at the photograph, Li's left eye is smaller than his right eye. This was due to a gunshot he took in 1895. He was shot in the left side of his face by Koyama Toyotaro while in Japan attending the Treaty of Shimonoseki negotiations on behalf of the Qing government. Although Li survived the gunshot, some of the shrapnel could not be removed as it was too close to the eye, leaving him with mild facial disfigurement.

(Reference no.: MC7.1.1)



Foreign missionaries in Yantai, 1890s.

During the course of Catholicism's spread to China, there had been more than one instance of conflict between cultures and customs. In the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), Italian missionary Matteo Ricci wore Chinese costumes and became affiliated with the intellectuals in order to overcome obstacles to his missionary work, and he made great progress. As illustrated by this photograph, these missionaries living in Yantai are dressed in traditional Chinese costumes, and the men even wear queues.



(Reference no.: AC25.A.1)



Burned down Legation Quarter in Dongjiaomin Xiang, 1900.  
By Plaisant

After the signing of the unequal Convention of Peking, foreigners could live in Beijing permanently, and Dongjiaomin Xiang gradually developed into a settlement for foreigners. Not only were foreign legations established in the area, but there were also facilities for foreigners, such as department stores, restaurants, hospitals and clubs. During the Boxer Rebellion, the area became the primary target of the Boxers' attack. The Boxers, upholding the slogan "Exterminate the Foreigners", was formed amidst the continuous oppression of China by the foreign powers and frequent conflicts between the common people and the churches.

When the area of Dongjiaomin Xiang was attacked, the diplomatic staff of different countries took refuge in the British legation. Most of the legation buildings were burned down, as seen in this photograph taken from a hot air balloon.

(Reference no.: GC11.A.3.1)



Jingyi Pavilion, Hanlin Academy, Beijing, 1900.  
By Reverend Charles A. Killie

In the late Qing dynasty, Hanlin Academy and the British legation was only separated by a wall. In 1900, the Boxers threw torches into the academy, with the intention of starting a fire that would spread to the British legation. The foreigners in the legation put out the fire in time, but the only copies of several hundred volumes of the *Yongle Encyclopaedia* in the library of Hanlin Academy were almost completely destroyed.

(Reference no.: AC37.14)



Escape from Tianjin, 1900.

By James Ricalton

In response to the anti-foreign, anti-Christian Boxers Movement, as well as Empress Dowager Cixi's declaration of war against the foreign powers in the name of Emperor Guangxu in June 1900, Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Italy and Austria-Hungary formed the Eight-Nation Alliance and invaded China.

The Qing troops in Tianjin resolutely resisted the invasion of the Eight-Nation Alliance. As the fighting swept through the city, residents panicked and wealthy merchants escaped. In this photograph, the person in the sedan chair is fleeing the city. According to James Ricalton, the photographer, the man was likely a prominent individual. His servants can be seen walking in front of the sedan chair, one of them holding up a white flag.

(Reference no.: 1133.S.11.1)



Christians fleeing Tianjin, 1900.

By James Ricalton

Besides foreigners, the Boxers also targeted Christians. In face of the Eight-Nation Alliance's attack, the Boxers in Tianjin intensified its persecution of Christians. Therefore, many people fled to the foreign concessions, where they could leave the city by boat.




(Reference no.: SC5.49.1)

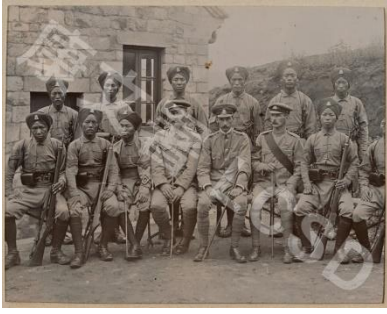


Corpses in the river, Tianjin, 1900.

By James Ricalton

This photograph shows corpses floating in the river after the capture of Tianjin by the Eight-Nation Alliance. According to the photographer's notes, large numbers of corpses and limbs drifted downstream every day. Most of these belonged to civilians brutally murdered by the allied forces, while there were also some Christians killed by the Boxers. The pictured buildings on the shore, part of the French Concession, have been severely damaged

	<p>in the fierce fighting.</p> <p>(Reference no.: SC6.S.4)</p>
	<p>Tianjin occupied by the Eight-Nation Alliance, 1900. By James Ricalton</p> <p>After the Eight-Nation Alliance captured Tianjin, the city was divided into areas controlled by different countries. In this photograph, Tianjin is ablaze with people sitting on the ground as they wait for the French soldiers to let them pass. According to the photographer, the people fled with their valuables, and while many of their possessions were looted, they dared not and could not protest.</p> <p>(Reference no.: SC5.61.1)</p>
	<p>Tianjin destroyed by the Eight-Nation Alliance, 1900. By James Ricalton</p> <p>The pictured road used to be one of the most important roads in Tianjin, running through the city from north to south. After the war, all that remained of the prosperous road were ruins and devastation. In this photograph, the slightly higher building in the distance is the Drum Tower, the centre of the city.</p> <p>(Reference no.: SC5.62.1)</p>
	<p>Russian troops tearing down civilian homes, 1900. By James Ricalton</p> <p>After the fall of Tianjin, Russian troops looted the city and the suburbs under the pretence of searching for the Boxers. People's homes were ruthlessly demolished and even burned.</p> <p>(Reference no.: SC6.S.37)</p>



First Chinese Regiment in Weihaiwei, 1900s.

After Britain forcefully leased Weihaiwei in 1898, the British forces recruited young Chinese men to create the First Chinese Regiment, or Weihaiwei Regiment. The soldiers were equipped and trained according to the standard of the British army. They did not only stand out with their Chinese looks, but also their uniform was characterised by an Indian-style turban worn with a special insignia.

(Reference no.: 1131.64)



Key to Chongwen Gate, 1900.  
By Reverend Charles A. Killie

The American soldier in this photograph is holding the key to Chongwen Gate. It measures over two feet in length.

(Reference no.: AC37.35)

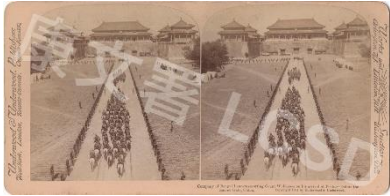


Xihua Gate occupied by the Japanese forces, 1900.

During the Eight-Nation Alliance's invasion of China, the foreign powers discussed which city gate each country would attack before the siege of Beijing. In reality, however, each country had its own axe to grind, and on the night of the attack, some of the armies struck ahead of time, while others changed their targets at the last moment. Therefore, the armies of different countries entered Beijing – and began looting – at different times. In order to balance the foreign powers' gains in China, it was agreed that the Forbidden City would not be looted. The United States forces guarded the Meridian Gate, while Japanese troops kept watch of the other three gates. This photograph shows Xihua Gate, guarded by the Japanese army.

(Reference no.: AC44.10)





Waldersee visiting the Forbidden City, 1900.

By James Ricalton

Although the foreign powers elected German marshal Alfred Graf von Waldersee as the commander-in-chief of the Eight-Nation Alliance, he only arrived in Beijing after the allies had captured the city. After the welcoming ceremony, Waldersee visited the Forbidden City in the company of prominent allied military officers. This photograph shows the entourage passing through the square in front of the Meridian Gate.

(Reference no.: 1133.S.2.1)



Forbidden City in desolation, 1900.

By James Ricalton

After the Eight-Nation Alliance occupied Beijing, the Qing imperial family fled the city under the pretence of conducting a hunting expedition, and the interior of the Forbidden City was shown to the world for the first time. Yet, photographer James Ricalton was very disappointed during his first visit to the Forbidden City. He wrote in his journal: “Look at the weeds and grass growing up from the pavements; that canal is without water; and look at the shrubs growing from the chinks in the walls. There is grass and wild herbage enough about this court to graze a flock of goats.”

(Reference no.: SC5.81.1)






Li Hongzhang in his Tianjin residence, 1900.

By James Ricalton

When this photograph was taken, the Eight-Nation Alliance had captured Beijing and Empress Dowager Cixi, along with Emperor Guangxu, had fled the city. Li Hongzhang, who was previously in Guangzhou, was ordered to travel to Beijing for negotiations with the allies. He procrastinated, partly due to old age, and also because he wanted to observe the situation and gain more authority. After he returned to Tianjin, he received many foreign visitors. This photograph was taken at a meeting with an American delegation.



	<p>(1403-1424) in the Ming dynasty, ablaze.</p> <p>This photograph was taken shortly after the Eight-Nation Alliance occupied Beijing: the shops along Qianmen Street are deserted, while the burned-down tower and its missing plaque accentuate the tragic atmosphere during this national calamity.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 905.20)</p>
	<p>Japanese aggressors passing through Zhengyang Bridge archway, 1937.</p> <p>By Osaka Mainichi Shinbunsha</p> <p>This photograph was taken from a similar location and angle as the previous photo. The Archery Tower of Zhengyang Gate and the plaque on the archway at Zhengyang Bridge in this photo have been restored, but the atmosphere is similar: as the invading Japanese forces enter the city, Japan's eight-year occupation of Beijing begins.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1141.3)</p>
	<p>Zhengyang Gate Tower, 1870s.</p> <p>Since its completion in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Zhengtong period in the Ming dynasty (1439), Zhengyang Gate Tower had been the symbol of Beijing. Since it was located directly in front of the Imperial City, the gate was also known as Qianmen, which means "front gate". As the main entrance of Beijing's Inner City, it was the grandest among all the city gates.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC9.A.9)</p>
	<p>Ruins of the burned-down Zhengyang Gate Tower, 1901.</p> <p>By Herbert Clarence White</p> <p>Since its completion in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), Zhengyang Gate Tower had been damaged several times and subsequently restored. The last damage occurred in 1900 after the Eight-Nation Alliance entered Beijing: several Indian soldiers in the British army started a fire while cooking inside Zhengyang Gate Tower.</p>

Comparing this photograph with the previous one taken from the same angle and position shows all that remained was the tower's bare foundation. Even the street vendors in the Barbican vanished.

(Reference no.: SC21.52)



Zhengyang Gate Tower after restoration, 1900s.

Zhengyang Gate Tower was burned down by British troops during the Eight-Nation Alliance's occupation of Beijing. Emperor Guangxu and Empress Dowager Cixi were yet to return to Beijing, and plans for the tower's reconstruction were only put forth in 1903. However, since the work documents kept by the Ministry of Works were destroyed, the design of the new gate tower drew reference from Chongwen Gate.

(Reference no.: 905.1)

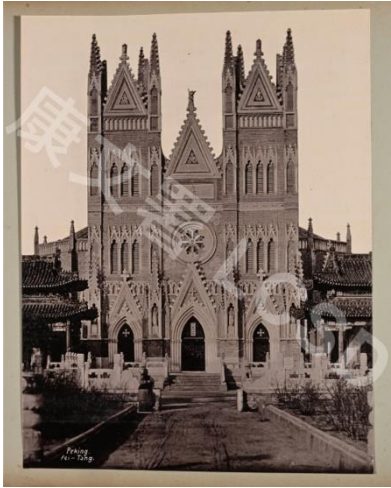


Church of the Saviour after the war, 1900s.

In order to escape the Boxers, most Chinese Christians in Beijing took refuge in the Church of the Saviour inside Xi'an Gate. The Boxers and Qing troops besieged the church and repeatedly fired at the building. Inside the church, a mere 40 French and Italian soldiers tried to resist their attackers. After more than a month, the Boxers and Qing forces were still unable to capture the church. In this photograph, the façade of the Church of the Saviour is full of bullet marks, while the stained windows are smashed. Even the cross on the roof is crooked.

(Reference no.: 1024.200)





Church of the Saviour after restoration, 1902.

After the signing of the unequal Boxer Protocol, the Catholic Church restored the Church of the Saviour with compensation from the Qing government: while the two stele pavilions at the entrance were reconstructed, the façade of the church was not only rebuilt in the original style, but also the two-floor bell tower was converted to a three-storey structure, as seen in this photograph.

(Reference no.: 1047.12)



Train entering Beijing city, 1901.

After occupying Beijing, the Eight-Nation Alliance decided to build Zhengyangmen East Station. In order to reach Zhengyang Gate, the railroad had to pass through the city wall. Therefore, the British forces demolished a section of the city wall on the east and west side of the barbican at Chongwen Gate to make two openings for the construction trains to pass, as shown in this photograph. After the station and railroad were completed, the openings were converted into arches.

(Reference no.: GC11.A.46.2.1)



Advancing Russian army, 1904.

War broke out between Japan and Russia on Chinese soil between 1904 and 1905 as the two countries fought for gains in China. Unable to stop the war, the Qing government could only observe its developments silently. This photograph shows a group of Russian soldiers travelling along the Chinese Eastern Railway to their position.

(Reference no.: 1015.S.20)



Japanese soldiers in a trench getting ready to attack, 1904.

During the Russo-Japanese War, the two sides prepared to fight for control of Shenyang near Shahe river. As it was an area of open plains, both countries built large numbers of trenches. After two weeks of brutal fighting, the Japanese won the battle.

(Reference no.: 1015.S.28.1)



Japanese troops in Shenyang, 1905.  
By Herbert Clarence White

This photograph shows Japanese troops transporting military supplies passing through the Bell Tower in Shenyang before the battle in Lushun.

(Reference no.: 1135.S.33.1)



Japanese army bombarding Russian defending troops in Lushun Port, 1905.

During the Russo-Japanese War, both sides were determined to seize Lushun, whereas the high ground for control of Lushun Port was Hill 203 to the northwest of the port. To seize the strategic location, Japan built a specialist unit to carry out the offensive. In the end, the Japanese army captured the high ground, and subsequently seized Lushun. This photograph shows Japanese troops bombarding the Russian fleet in Lushun Port.

(Reference no.: 1015.S.14)



Russian prisoners of war in Japan, 1905.  
By Herbert Clarence White

To build the image of a “civilised Japan”, the country laid down rules for the treatment of prisoners of war during the Russo-Japanese War, with reference to international laws. For example, Russian soldiers captured by the Japanese forces were given different food rations according to their ranks. This photograph shows the Russian prisoners of war at the time.

(Reference no.: 1135.S.5.1)



Inauguration of the Zhengtai Railway, 1907.

To export coal and iron from the province, Governor of Shanxi Hu Pinzhi sought permission from the Qing court to build a railroad linking Taiyuan to Zhengding in 1896. However, some government officials and residents objected to the proposal. Construction of the railroad only began in 1904 and was completed in 1907. This photograph shows Shijiazhuang Station at the time of its inauguration.

(Reference no.: AC27.2)



Chinese workmen repairing a locomotive, 1900s.

Although the Zhengtai Railway was surveyed and designed by French engineers, its construction helped train relevant technicians for China. As this photograph shows, such repair works required a lot of manpower. Besides one French engineer, all involved were Chinese.

(Reference no.: AC27.13)



New Army officers inspecting military exercise, 1900s.

Following its defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War, the Qing government decided to build new armed forces. Surveillance Commissioner of Guangxi Hu Yufen built Dingwu Army in Machang, Tianjin, and Yuan Shikai was subsequently appointed to train the army. Drawing reference from the drills and regulations of the German and Japanese armies, Yuan reorganised Dingwu Army and equipped the troops with advanced weapons from Europe. The new unit was renamed the New Army. Trained using advanced systems and scientific methods, this unit had unprecedented combat power and remained the main force of the Beiyang Army after the Republic of China was founded. This photograph shows the supervising officers during the military exercise in 1905.

(Reference no.: 905.108)



New Army soldiers in military exercise, 1900s.

This photograph shows the equipment of New Army soldiers: they are equipped with German-made Mauser rifles, while the gear they carry also follows the example of the German kit. The soldiers carry a roll-up blanket, a meal box, a pair of boots on both sides of their rucksack; and an ammunition pouch along with a water bottle on their belt. A military shovel is inserted into the rucksack. Notably, the soldier's queue is put into a bun and stuck under his cap.

(Reference no.: 905.86)



Fighting the plague, 1911.

In late 1910, a plague broke out in northeast China. The source of the outbreak was Chinese hunters hired by Russian merchants to capture marmots. In the beginning, people had no knowledge of the deadly infectious disease that was spreading like fire. China appointed Dr Wu Lien Teh, the Deputy Director of the Imperial Army Medical College, to investigate and combat the disease. Wu was a Malaysian-born Chinese physician. Based on the patients' symptoms and living environments, he concluded the virus was transmitted through droplets and named it the "pneumonic plague". Through isolating those infected, he was able to stop the spread of the epidemic. This photograph shows an individual in protective equipment working on site.

(Reference no.: AC24.229)







Temporary isolation hospital, 1911.

After confirming the Manchurian plague was caused by the droplet-spread pneumonic plague virus, Dr Wu Lien Teh proposed a strategy of quarantine, hospitalisation and isolation to combat the epidemic. Schools, factories and train compartments were converted to temporary hospitals and isolation wards for the patients. These included Binjiang (present-day Harbin) Government Primary School for Girls shown in the photograph.

(Reference no.: GC24.P.4)



	<p>Hospital ward, 1911.</p> <p>This photograph shows healthcare professionals checking on the patients.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC24.P.19)</p>
	<p>Female isolation ward, 1911.</p> <p>This photograph shows a female isolation ward. The face masks worn by the patients were designed by Dr Wu Lien Teh, with features including absorbent cotton placed between two layers of gauze and ear loops to help the mask stay in place over the nose and mouth. Effective in preventing the virus from spreading through droplets, the face masks, known as “Wu’s masks”, were inexpensive and easy to make.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC24.P.17)</p>
	<p>Admitting patients, 1911.</p> <p>The “infirmary” in this photograph is apparently a temporarily requisitioned shop. Two plague workers are leaving with a patient on a stretcher. They seem to strictly abide by the regulations: they are not only wearing special coats, but their masks have also been put on properly.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC24.P.8)</p>
	<p>Emperor Guangxu's funeral procession, 1909.</p> <p>Emperor Guangxu died on 14 November 1908. Since his mausoleum was not yet completed, his remains were temporary placed in the Western Qing Tombs. On 12 March 1909, a grand funeral was held for the emperor and the streets were packed with</p>

people. In this photograph, however, while the New Army soldiers maintaining order on the other side of the road are on their knees, many of the onlookers are not. Among those who are, some are only half-kneeling. This differs from our conception of Qing dynasty etiquette, but certainly reflects the decline of centralisation in the Qing government at the time.

(Reference no.: AC24.5)



Governor-General of Huguang Rui Cheng and Hubei New Army officers, 1900s.

In response to the Qing court's call for the formation of new armed forces, Governor-General of Huguang Zhang Zhidong transformed the old army in Hubei into the Hubei Standing Army. In 1907, the army was reorganised again according to the newly established New Army system and placed under the command of Zhang Biao and Li Yuanhong.

This photograph shows the Governor-General of Huguang Rui Cheng with principal officers of the Hubei New Army. In the front row, 6<sup>th</sup> from the right is Rui Cheng, 7<sup>th</sup> from the right is his son, 4<sup>th</sup> from the right is Zhang Biao and 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right is Li Yuanhong.

(Reference no.: AC51.31)



Insurgent troops wearing white arm bands, 1911.

By Edwin John Dingle

On 10 October 1911, the Wuchang uprising lifted the curtain on the 1911 Revolution. At that time, the insurgent forces did not have their own uniforms, and they agreed to wear white arm bands, as shown in the photograph, in order to distinguish themselves.

(Reference no.: 1994-899.4)



Hubei Military Governor's Mansion, 1911.

Following the victory of the Wuchang uprising, the revolutionaries established Hubei Military Governor's Mansion (Hubei Military Government) in the old Hubei Provincial Assembly and elected Li Yuanhong as military governor. This photograph shows the front gate of the office of Hubei Military Government with a new flag hoisted. Street vendors are in business outside the front gate – social order seems to have been restored. Today, this is the site of the 1911 Revolution Museum.

(Reference no.: AC49.19)



Five-coloured flag in the streets of Beijing, 1912.

Following the success of the 1911 Revolution, the Republic of China (ROC) was founded. In April 1912, the provisional government was moved to Beijing, and the provisional senate voted to adopt the five-coloured flag, with the colours red, yellow, blue, white, and black arranged from top to bottom, as the national flag of the ROC. In this photograph, the national flag of the ROC is put up in Qianmen Street, Beijing.

(Reference no.: 1027.89)