

5 *Battle Scene from the Taiping Rebellion*

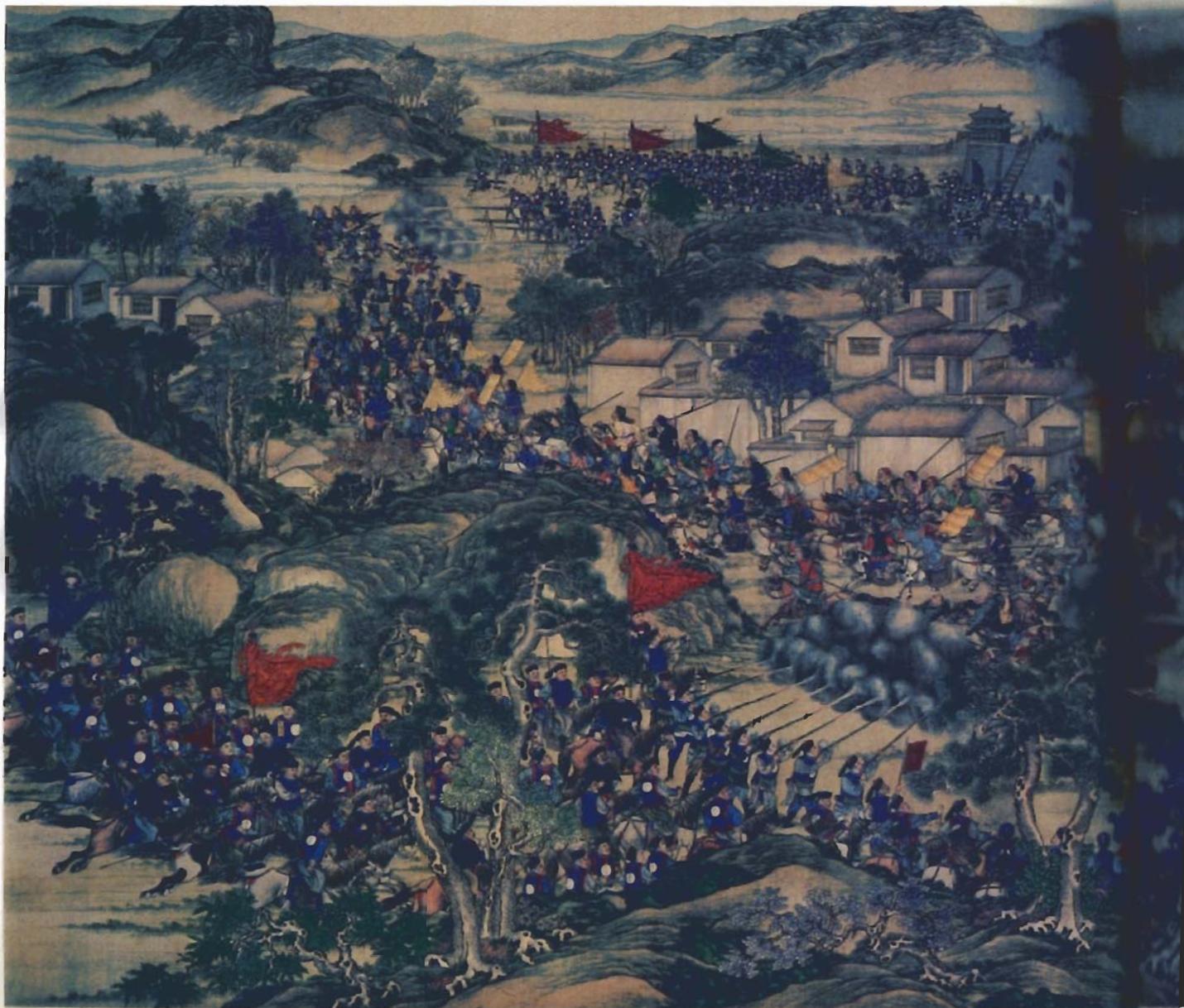
Not dated

Wall mounted painting

Ink and color on silk

135.9 x 307.3 cm

Cemac Limited, courtesy of Sydney L. Moss Limited, London.



This imposing work might be mistaken for an eighteenth-century court work, so close it is in style and execution to the battle cycles of the Qianlong reign. Here, as in those earlier scenes which were conceived in part by European artists active at the Qianlong court, the imperial army routs the rebels in a panoramic setting.

Among the identifiable leaders of the Qing army pictured is Luo Zenan (1808-1856), a scholar who trained his local militia and ultimately became Zeng Guofan's top assistant in the fight against the Taiping rebels. Also pictured is Li Xuyi (died 1863), brother of the better known Li Xubin,⁸² both of whom were members of the 'Hunan braves,' as the Hunan forces led by Zeng Guofan came to be known.



Claudia Brown and Ju-hsi Chou

Transcending Turmoil

Painting at the Close of China's Empire 1796 – 1911

Phoenix Art Museum

