



Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

Download now

Read Online ➔

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

In 1898 a young Englishman walked into a homosexual brothel in Peking and began a journey that he claims took him all the way to the bedchamber of imperial China's last great ruler, the Empress Dowager Tz'u Hsi. Published now for the first time, the controversial memoirs of Sinologist Sir Edmund Backhouse provide a unique and shocking glimpse into the hidden world of China's imperial palace, with its rampant corruption, grand conspiracies, and uninhibited sexuality. Backhouse was made notorious by Hugh Trevor-Roper's 1976 bestseller *Hermit of Peking*, which accused Backhouse of fraudulence and forgery. This work, written shortly before Backhouse's death in 1943, lay for decades forgotten and unpublished in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, dismissed by Trevor-Roper as nothing more than "a pornographic novelette." But *Décadence Mandchoue* is much more than that. Alternately shocking and lyrical, it is the masterwork of a linguistic genius—a tremendous literary achievement and a sensational account of the inner workings of the Manchu dynasty in the years before its collapse in 1911. If true, Backhouse's chronicle completely reshapes contemporary historians' understanding of the era and provides an account of the Empress Dowager and her inner circle that can only be described as intimate.

 [Download Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmu
...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Ed
...pdf](#)

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

In 1898 a young Englishman walked into a homosexual brothel in Peking and began a journey that he claims took him all the way to the bedchamber of imperial China's last great ruler, the Empress Dowager Tz'u Hsi. Published now for the first time, the controversial memoirs of Sinologist Sir Edmund Backhouse provide a unique and shocking glimpse into the hidden world of China's imperial palace, with its rampant corruption, grand conspiracies, and uninhibited sexuality. Backhouse was made notorious by Hugh Trevor-Roper's 1976 bestseller *Hermit of Peking*, which accused Backhouse of fraudulence and forgery. This work, written shortly before Backhouse's death in 1943, lay for decades forgotten and unpublished in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, dismissed by Trevor-Roper as nothing more than "a pornographic novelette." But *Décadence Mandchoue* is much more than that. Alternately shocking and lyrical, it is the masterwork of a linguistic genius—a tremendous literary achievement and a sensational account of the inner workings of the Manchu dynasty in the years before its collapse in 1911. If true, Backhouse's chronicle completely reshapes contemporary historians' understanding of the era and provides an account of the Empress Dowager and her inner circle that can only be described as intimate.

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1512007 in Books
- Published on: 2011-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.20" w x 6.00" l, 1.38 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 336 pages

 [Download Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmu ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Ed ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **Décadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse** By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse

Editorial Review

Review

"Few in [Sir Edmund Backhouse's] time wrote so brazenly . . . about surging homosexual desire and its unbridled practice in such an exotic setting. This edition makes available to readers, for the first time, a little gem of English erotic literature from the pen of a very queer Englishman abroad." —Robert Aldrich, professor of European history, University of Sydney

"Though Backhouse's credibility must certainly be challenged, does this mean that we discard all of *Décadence Mandchoue* automatically? His reputation as a source of Peking information has not been seriously challenged and even if he was relaying gossip, this was gossip that was taken seriously." —Frances Wood, Chinese curator, British Library

"In retrospect, the cultural transgressiveness of Sir Edmund seems to me much more worthy of appreciation than his sexual unconventionality." —T. H. Barrett, professor of East Asian history, University of London

"Derek Sandhaus has done a fantastic work in editing this text . . . For readers interested in literature (notably travel literature) on the one hand and sexuality on the other, its value is obvious and indisputable." —Vincent Goosaert, adjunct professor of religious and cultural studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong

"One of the most outrageous, colourful and hilarious memoirs ever written." —Frank Dikotter, chair of humanities, University of Hong Kong, and author, *Mao's Great Famine*

"Outrageous . . . Backhouse's memoirs remain historically highly controversial." —*Daily Telegraph* (April 1, 2011)

"[A] remarkable account . . ." —*South China Morning Post* (April 3, 2011)

About the Author

Edmund Trelawny Backhouse was a translator who worked in China for the British Foreign Service as well as for *London Times* correspondent George Morrison. He is the coauthor of *Annals and Memoirs of the Court of Peking* and *China Under the Empress Dowager*. **Derek Sandhaus** is the chief editor of Earnshaw Books and the author of *Tales of Old Hong Kong* and *Tales of Old Peking*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Frazier:

Book is definitely written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A reserve Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

Alyssa Lewis:

This Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse are reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse can be one of the great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you with information that maybe will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Adele Yeager:

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Jose Roberts:

Don't be worry for anyone who is afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. This particular Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse can give you a lot of close friends because by you checking out this one book you have matter that they don't and make an individual more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't understand, by knowing more than different make you to be great men and women. So , why hesitate? We

need to have Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse.

Download and Read Online Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse #F7W8YD4AZCT

Read Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse for online ebook

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse books to read online.

Online Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse ebook PDF download

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse Doc

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse Mobipocket

Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse By Edmund Trelawny Backhouse EPub