

STROLLING ABOUT ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD
The First Hundred Years of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs
(formerly Royal Central Asian Society)

Hugh Leach with Susan Maria Farrington
Foreword by Lord Hurd of Westwell

Published by RoutledgeCurzon on 1 November 2002
Hardback, 212 pages, 190 illustrations, index, ISBN 0-415-29857-1

The Society has a rich history tracing its *fons et origo* within the Central Asian Question at the turn of the last century. The chronology of the first one hundred years begins this work, from early struggle to a golden period between the wars and on to a long span post-Empire when it was involved in more than thirty countries. It outlines how its early membership and distinguished Honorary Officers were drawn largely from the armed services, the Indian Political Service and the Diplomatic and Consular services, before enlarging into business, commerce and the oil industry.

The second part carries vignettes of its more remarkable, even eccentric, members and their exploits. They included not only the Presidents of some Asian countries and world religious leaders, but adventurers and spies, explorers, missionaries and medics, scholars, engineers, journalists, businessmen and a thriving Junior Membership.

The final section has individual chapters covering the Society's various activities, archival collection and medal awards. The latter includes the Lawrence of Arabia Medal with accounts of the medal-holders themselves, Lawrence's family links with the Society, and its members who worked with him in the Hejaz and Palestine campaigns.

With its considerable factual content the book will be a work of reference for all interested in Britain's involvement with Asia during the last century. Of particular current relevance is the Society's long fascination with Afghanistan and concern for Islam. The volume is generously illustrated and includes many of the Society's unique archival photographs not previously published.



The Royal Society for Asian Affairs
2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ
Telephone: 020 7235 5122 Fax: 020 7259 6771
email: info@rsaa.org.uk

STROLLING ABOUT ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD
The First Hundred Years of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs
(formerly Royal Central Asian Society)
by
Hugh Leach with Susan Maria Farrington

ORDER: Please send me _____ copy/ies of **Strolling about on the Roof of the World**. Copies will also be available to Members of The Royal Society for Asian Affairs from the Society's office or at meetings.

£18.00 (US \$37.50) per copy for Members
Normal retail price: £25.00 per copy.

Postage & Packing per copy: UK £3.50 Europe £4.20 (US\$7.35)
Other Zones: surface £4.10 (US\$7.20); airmail £9.00 (US\$15.75)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ or US\$ _____
made payable to The Royal Society for Asian Affairs.
We are sorry we cannot accept payment by credit/debit cards.

Name: _____
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Address: _____
