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Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse' reminiscences of Beijing as the Manchu dynasty collapsed entering the 20th century. The work was essentially commissioned by the Swiss physician Rehinhard Hoeppli who met Backhouse in Beijing in the early 1940s (the book was written in 1943; Backhouse died in Beijing in 1944).

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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 This work, written shortly before the author's death in 1943, lay for decades forgotten and unpublished in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, dismissed by Trevor-Roper as nothing more than "a pornographic novelette."

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Trevor-Roper Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse, 2nd Baronet 20 October — 8 January was a British oriental scholar Decadence Mandchoue: The China Memoirs of Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse linguist whose work exerted a powerful influence on the Western view of the last decades of the Qing Dynasty This endeavour was ultimately unsuccessful.

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Backhouse's achievement is best brought out by focusing on the first part of the title he gave his work: Decadence Mandchoue. Although it was written in 1943, the work's whole style and atmosphere is of the 1890s, of The Yellow Book, of the Symbolists, and in particular, the Decadents.

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Biographical / Historical Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse (1873-1944) was a historian and sinologist. Details are given in the Dictionary of National Biography.

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Sir Edmund Trelawny Backhouse, 2nd Baronet was a British oriental scholar, Sinologist, and linguist whose books exerted a powerful influence on the Western view of the last decades of the Qing Dynasty. Since his death, however, it has been established that the major source of his China Under the Empress Dowager is a forgery, most likely by Backhouse himself. His biographer, Hugh Trevor-Roper, unmasked Backhouse as "a confidence man with few equals," who had also duped the British government, Oxf

Sir Edmund Backhouse, 2nd Baronet - Wikipedia

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