



Chiselbury Publishing

Mandarin-Gold

James Leasor

Description

China, 1833. The Qing Empire still stands proud, but Western traders have discovered the key to its riches: opium.

Robert Gunn, a young Scotsman determined to make his fortune, arrives on the China coast with ambition, courage and few scruples. Drawn into a ruthless world of merchants, smugglers and mandarins, he soon learns that wealth comes at a terrible price. Every step towards power demands compromise, and every success carries him further from the man he once was.

As the illegal opium trade grows and the collision between East and West becomes inevitable, Gunn finds himself caught in a dangerous struggle where fortunes are won through violence, deception and betrayal.

Rich in historical detail and sweeping adventure, **Mandarin-Gold** is the gripping first novel in James Leasor's acclaimed Robert Gunn Trilogy. Together, they chart the rise of Western commercial power in nineteenth-century Asia through the remarkable life of one unforgettable adventurer.

Biography

James Leasor was one of the bestselling British authors of the second half of the 20th Century. He wrote over 50 books including a rich variety of thrillers, historical novels, histories and biographies.

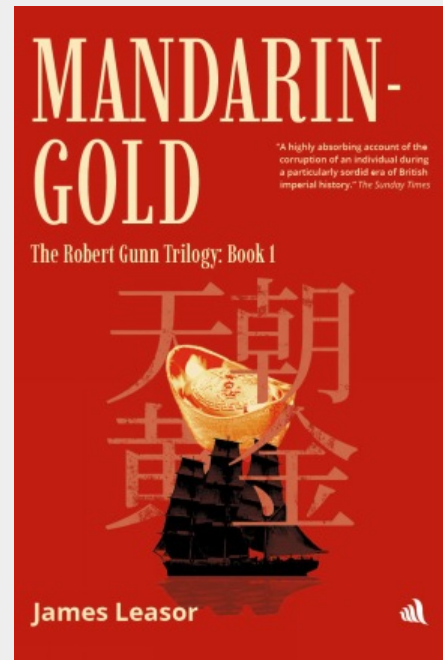
Reviews/Endorsements

'Highly absorbing account of the corruption of an individual during a particularly sordid era of British imperial history' **The Sunday Times**

'James Leasor switches to the China Sea more than a century ago, and with pace and ingenuity tells, in novel form, how the China coast was forced to open up its riches to Englishmen, in face of the Emperor's justified hostility' **Evening Standard**

'In the nasty story of opium – European and American traders made fortunes taking the forbidden dope into nineteenth century China, and this novel tells the story of their deadly arrangements and of the Emperor's vain attempts to stop them. Mr. Leasor has researched the background carefully and the detail of the Emperor's lavish court but weak administration is fascinating. The white traders are equally interesting characters, especially those two real-life merchants, Jardine and Matheson.' **Manchester Evening News**

Advance Information



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14 Devonian Road, London N1 8JH United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7703 537721
E-Mail: info@chiselbury.co.uk web: www.chiselbury.co.uk