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In the high Yemen

Hugh Scott

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Hugh Scott : In the high Yemen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the high Yemen:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A bugger in YemenBy Bob NewmanProwling around in the used book stores of Auckland, New Zealand in 1981 (not a very vast undertaking), I stumbled upon Hugh Scott's book by chance. It had been written about 40 years before. And it has taken me thirty years to get to it. So, we are talking about a journey to a most remote, inaccessible country back before WW II, in 1937-38 viewed from almost 75 years later. Hugh Scott and a companion, E.B. Britton (about whom we learn not a whit) undertook an expedition to Aden and Yemen to collect insects for science and for the British Museum. As entry into the Imamate/Kingdom of Yemen depended upon the whim of the Imam, the two entomologists did not know whether they would even be allowed to enter the country. They arrived in Aden, then a British colony, and spent some months collecting specimens in the high country north of the city, then also under British aegis. Given permission at last, they travelled for a couple months in the region between the Aden-Yemen border and San'a, the capital, never given leave to climb into the highest areas of the Yemeni plateau, their actual goal. This book tells the story of that expedition, describing both the insects, plants, and birds that they saw or collected, and the land and people around them. Scott writes excellent descriptions of nature and the towns or villages he saw, of the Jewish community which would emigrate to Israel a decade later, of the officials and local elites he met, of the Somali servants that worked for the expedition, and of the places he stayed. It is a most descriptive book with excellent black and white photographs depicting a long-gone world. What is missing is any real contact with Yemeni people other than officials, or any cultural insight. Description

reigns as if Yemen were a fantastic natural environment of which no detail should be left untold, but where everyone was silent. Still, I found this book interesting. Today Aden and Yemen are (uneasily) united, the population is quadruple what it was, the country is awash in weapons, and a water crisis looms while various factions jockey for power. **IN THE HIGH YEMEN** provides a look at another time, a time when Yemen's contacts with the outer world were still sporadic.

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About the Author Hugh Scott was a natural scientist, writer, and traveller.