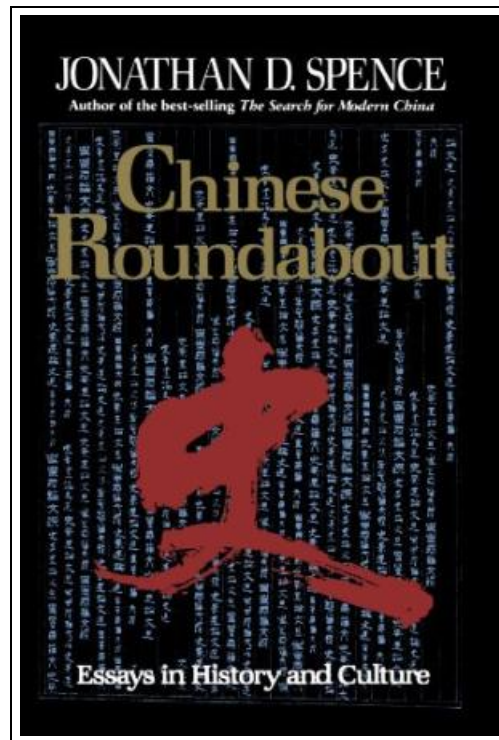


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W. W. Norton & Company. Paperback. Condition: New. 416 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.0in. x 1.1in. If one has the art, then a piece of celery or salted cabbage can be made into a marvelous delicacy; whereas if one has not the art, not all the greatest delicacies and rarities of land, sea, or sky are of any avail. a Beijing cook, nineteenth century from Chinese Roundabout The spirit of adventure is at the heart of Jonathan Spences widely acclaimed scholarship on the modern history of China. This vitality, fleshed out with deep research and attired in elegant style, has drawn countless readers to subjects otherwise approachable only by experts. Through eight books, from the story of the early eighteenth century Manchu bondservant Tsao Yin to his magisterial history, *The Search for Modern China*, Spence has made the excitement of intellectual discovery palpable for us all. In the course of his fruitful career Spence has written many shorter pieces as well, and the best of these are collected for the first time in Chinese Roundabout. Here the reader will meet Arcadio Huang, the Chinese linguist and Christian convert who moves from south China to Enlightenment Paris, marries a French woman, and in conversations with Montesquieu becomes the likely source for the *Persian Letters*. The poignant story of Huang's hard-won success and final defeat by poverty and disease illustrates the perils of crossing cultures. Spences delight in intellectual risk animates his Shakespearean approach to the life of the great Qing emperor in *The Seven Ages of Kang-hsi*. Spences great learning informs an authoritative essay on Chinas tragic experience with opium. Following the social process of addiction from the cultivation of poppies and the processing of the drug through its introduction by the British into China, its widespread distribution and consumption by Chinese,...



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