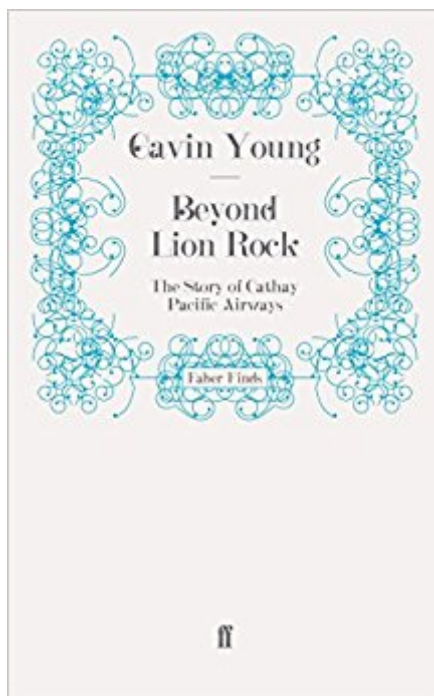


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Beyond Lion Rock: The Story Of Cathay Pacific Airways



Synopsis

In 1946 Roy Farrell and Syd de Kantzow's beloved, battered wartime DC-3 touched down in Shanghai for the first time. On board was a cargo of morning coats and toothbrushes from New York, forging the first post-war supply route across the treacherous eastern Himalayas. The international airline now known as Cathay Pacific was born. Gavin Young tells the swashbuckling story of an empire of the air, a thrilling, action-packed adventure that began in an era closer to Biggles and biplanes held together by wire and safety pins than to our own. 'Pioneers like Farrell and de Kantzow would have had plenty of time to enjoy the dawn over Kangchebjunga. Would they think of us with envy or contempt, cruising seven miles up with hundreds of passengers, air-conditioning, in-flight concerts, movies, hot four-course meals with an elaborate wine line and all mod-cons? . . . All this in forty years! Could the world have changed so much and so fast?' This is Gavin Young himself eloquently reflecting on the extraordinary changes in air travel. There can be little doubt where his own sympathies lie.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gavin Young (1929-2001) was a journalist, writer, and briefly a member of MI6. As a journalist, he was most associated with the Observer, being in the words of Mark Frankland's obituary 'a star foreign correspondent'. When disenchantment with journalism set in he turned to the writing of books. The two most famous ones are *Slow Boats to China* and its sequel *Slow Boats Home*. He himself had a particular affection for two later books *In Search of Conrad* (winner of the Thomas Cook Book Award) and *A Wavering Grace*. These and *Beyond Lion Rock*, *From Sea to Shining*

Sea, Return to the Marshes and Worlds Apart are all being reissued in Faber Finds.

This is a must read for anyone who is a current employee, past employee or offspring of Cathay Pacific employees. In fact it's a great read for any aviation historian buff. Fascinating how this airline was still flying DC3's and 4 until the very early sixties! Look at this airline now! Some very interesting chapters which bring back memories when I was a child in HKG with the old man as one of the early Convair Flight Engineers, in particular the runway departure from centreline on take off into Hong Kong Harbour and the very sad mid air explosion in 1972. Poor old Flight Engineer Hickey survived the Convair sinking into Honk Kong harbour only to meet his premature demise in the 1972 mid air explosion. My old lady (an ex Cathay flight hostess) and the old man (started his Cathay flight eng days on the DC6 and the Electra) say this bloke Hickey was a true gentleman. Full credit to Syd (an Aussie) and Roy (a Yank and a Texan at that) for their grand vision that has now evolved into one the great global service airlines!!!

Good background on Cathay pacific and written in a simple, interesting and easy to read style. It's a bit dated now, only going up to 1988. Still an interesting background of the early days of the airline and a good read for any aviation enthusiast or Hong konger

Great book to learn about the airlines history especially for a job interview with the them. Very well written book

Instead of inspirational it is a promotional writing. I haev been fascinated by the two previous books that i read from Young but this one was one that raised my doubts whether the writers are the same.

as a fan of CX, you can not miss it.

Great book, well written, a few errors here and there. Covers the rise of Cathay Pacific and its founders, Roy, Syd and the transfer and ownership under the Swire group. It is a little dated now, but the recent history can be sourced easily on the internet.

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