

# Book by Mary Seacole republished

*"Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in  
many lands"*  
(First published in 1857 now republished in  
1984)  
Edited by Ziggi Alexander and Audrey Dew-

jee

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paperback

At last this amazing book by Mrs. Mary Seacole which was first published in 1857 has been republished this year thanks to the joint research of Ziggi Alexander and Audrey Dewjee who have provided an explanatory introduction which was not only necessary but welcome, for it cleared up certain points about which people were very vague. Years of research went into this introduction and it is a triumph for both of them. We are able to congratulate them personally at a launching party on February 28 at the Commonwealth Institute.

Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica in 1805, the daughter of a Scottish soldier and a black mother from whom she learnt the art of medicine (for her mother was a doctress) and Mary put her knowledge to good use not only in Panama and Jamaica but in the Crimea. She was nothing short of a Jamaican heroine and her statue should be today in Heroes Park; it is true that a bust of her by Court Gleichen (a nephew of queen Victoria) is in the Institute of Jamaica.

Mrs. Seacole's knowledge was aided by practicality and a habit of never giving up that landed her in many a situation that a less intrepid heart would have rejected, but that was never her way. However this remarkable woman who overcome the swamps of Panama and fought a battle with cholera offered her services for the Crimea but said she was refused because of her colour. She went to the Crimea nevertheless under her own steam and set up a place for the soldiers not only to be nursed but to buy stores from her.

She was actually called a 'Suttler' that is someone who sells goods to the army but she looked after them when they were wounded with conspicuous success. Her work was tremendous for she saved many peoples' lives as well as looking after their bodily wants and she became extremely well known to the editors of **The Times** and **Punch** as well as a distinguished number of English politicians and Generals. After the Crimea however Mrs. Seacole lost a considerable amount of money and it was then that people who knew her such as Queen Victoria and her daughter-in-law Princess Alexandra tried to arrange for a gala garden party to honour her after that event but it was not altogether successful.