



## W H SMITH TIMELINE

By Rule, Christopher

SELIA, London, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 69 Photographs & Drawings (illustrator). First Edition. pp. 102. Illustrated. From the "Introduction The history of W.H.Smith provides a perfect illustration of how a family-run newsagent's business, operating from a small shop in London, could develop into the country's largest wholesale distributor of newspapers as well as becoming the first multiple retailer. The story also exemplifies the Victorian ideal of `self-help' which held that anyone, however humble their background, could rise to a position of wealth and influence so long as they had a strong sense of moral purpose and were prepared to work hard. At the start of the nineteenth century the Smith business was a modest affair with a single shop. By using the developing network of turnpike roads and fast horse-drawn coaches to distribute newspapers throughout the British Isles, the business, within a few years, had grown to be the country's largest wholesaler of London newspapers. The entrepreneurial abilities of a succession of owners ensured that the business kept abreast of rapidly-changing transport technology and the coming of the railways not only provided a much faster means of distributing newspapers but also allowed W.H.Smith to become a major retailer by...



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