

## Photographs take you around the world and across the country

Holmes certainly made his bid for possession. He estimated he had crossed the Atlantic Ocean no fewer than 30 times and had crossed the Pacific 20 times. Most of this was before the debut of long-distance air travel, which considerably reduced the time of ocean crossings.

The book is divided into sections on specific locations, including one especially interesting chapter on the building of the Panama Canal.

Many of the pictures are hand-tinted (they were taken before the advent of colour film), and they are accompanied by text taken from the 8,000-plus lectures Holmes delivered in such famed locales as New York's Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall.

Burton Holmes is almost forgotten now, but between the First and Second World Wars he was a giant in theatres and auditoriums across North America - indeed, throughout much of the English-speaking world.

A world traveller and an expert with still and movie cameras, Holmes married his two loves into a career that earned him millions of dollars.

It was a simple idea: travel the world taking pictures, then show those pictures to audiences, along with giving a lecture.

Those who have seen Warren Miller's movies on skiing will recognize the formula.

Burton Holmes Travelogues: The Greatest Traveler of His Time (Taschen, \$65.99) recaptures Holmes's magic in a book edited by Genoa Caldwell, archivist of the Burton Holmes Historical Collection.

Holmes's photographs are entrancing. At a time when most people travelled only as far as the next town, except for the rich who could afford a season in Europe, Holmes roamed the world.

He made his first professional appearance on stage in 1893 and continued showing what he called his travelogues until 1952, six years before his death at age 88.

"To travel is to possess the world," Holmes wrote. "No one is the poorer because you have made the whole world yours.

"Travel is one way to enjoy all the satisfaction of possession without the responsibilities of ownership."