

The man who invented the travelogue

**BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUES:
The Greatest Traveller of His
Time, 1892-1952, by Genoa
Caldwell (Taschen, £29)**

LONG before the advent of air travel or radio, Burton Holmes embarked on a lifelong journey to capture the world with his camera and to bring it home to the masses.

From the sweeping boulevards of Paris to the Great Wall of China and the Arabian deserts, there were few places he did not venture. Among the many historical events he recorded during his wanderings were the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906, the sinking of the Russian fleet in Port Arthur in 1905 and the construction of the Panama Canal in 1912.

Holmes travelled to each continent and nearly every country laden with delicate cameras and bulky developing tanks and a portable darkroom.

Indeed, it was Holmes who coined the word 'Travelogues' as he took his stories, colour photographs and cine footage to audiences around the globe.

In all, Holmes took 30,000 photos and 500,000

ft of film. This lavish book distills the essence of the man and his work into a fascinating journey of its own, transporting the reader to a bygone world.

The people he captured are so immediate it seems they could step from the pages, such as barmaids in an Alpine Inn, or a moving last goodbye in World War One.

The captions, written in idiosyncratic archaisms, have been culled and condensed by the editor Genoa Caldwell, who has become the private archivist for this unique photographic collection.

Among captivating images are a tranquil Angkor Wat before it was ravaged by war, the thriving Gold Rush Town of Dawson City in 1903, and the pristine beauty of Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies.

In the UK, Holmes photographed the Henley Regatta in 1897, the Crystal Palace before its destruction and lively Victorian street scenes, include a good old-fashioned traffic (or carriage) jam on Westminster Bridge.

This is a book one will feel compelled to journey through again and again - with each visit offering fresh insights.

Gavin Engelbrecht



Burton Holmes, 1902
"HOLMES holds the record for the longest-running one-man run in American show business. He presented 8000 lectures in his lifetime from 1892 to 1952, always dressed in formal attire."