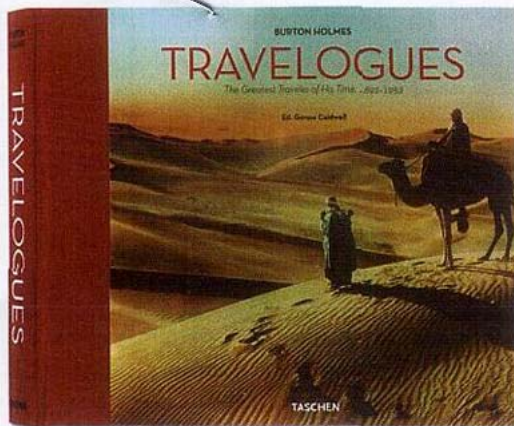


FRENCH RECOMMENDS



BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUES: The Greatest Traveler of His Time, 1892–1952

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Burton Holmes was one of the first travellers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, berating his contemporaries for their materialism and advocating voyage and discovery over career and money. *Travelogues* is a fascinating collection of his memoirs and illustrative photos from all around the world.

Holmes invented the word 'travelogue' in a desire to avoid the stuffy educational associations of the word 'lecture'. Instead, he wanted to impart his knowledge

in a way that was entertaining as well as informative. Holmes was a prolific speaker, and was keen to embrace contemporary photographic developments to bring the world to his audience.

Before photography was available to him, Holmes talked about creating pictures with words, and a lot of his descriptions have an enchanting, almost poetic quality that does indeed paint a picture: the dancing girls at Angkor Wat in Cambodia "evoking the remote ceremonies of the vanished past", sublime landscapes of Canadian lakes, *Egyptian pyramids and the mysterious Peking and Great Wall of China*.

Paris was one place that lured him back time and again – he talks of its charm and incomparable avenues. Holmes' first trip was to Europe in the 1880s where Paris had a real impact. In 1895 he and his travelling companions cycled from Paris along the Riviera to Italy and Corsica, and returned to Paris again in 1900 for the Exposition Universelle, lured by progressive inventions in travel and technology that could aid his quest. Painted black and white photos from later years show 1920s sophistication in Parisian bars and showgirls in cabarets, war time France and fashionable Biarritz. Embracing the new until he retired in the 1950s, Burton was also the first to make travel documentary films to share his passion. **CA ★★★★★**