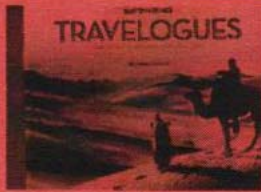


BEST ON THE SHELF

BURTON HOLMES TRAVELOGUES EDITED BY GENOA CALDWELL (Taschen-\$65.99) 366 pages

Jules Verne once wrote about going **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**. Burton Holmes is a man who has gone around the world during his lifetime, and has the photographic evidence to prove that. He is acknowledged as "the Greatest Traveller of All Time," and with good reason. Once you read this book, you will understand why he was given that nickname.

Holmes once noted, "To travel is to possess the world." He certainly possessed the world many times over if that was the case. Born in 1870, he was a century ahead of his time. If he was alive today, with all the digital possibilities, his images would have been even more profound, which is not to take away from his classic creations.

The photos in the book are emotionally powerful, images taken from a time long past, the likes of which many of us will never see, and if we do view them, there is little question many of the photos and places would be radically different. The majority of the shots are in black and white, though Holmes did colorize a few of them. Whether black and white or with touches of color, they still have a dramatic impact on the viewer.

Peru, Switzerland, Panama, France, Burma, Canada, India, Palestine, Java, Cuba, Denmark, Tunisia, Australia, Egypt, Italy, Ireland and Ethiopia, are just a few of the places featured in the book.

The sunsets, landscapes, people, temples, mountains, and skylines all evoke images that take you right to that spot, as if you were there when Holmes wielded his camera. The stunning photo of Lake Louise in British Columbia, taken in 1916, epitomizes the majestic allure of the photos, and the care he took to make the photos just right.

Besides his photos, Holmes was noted for his Travelogues; sight and sound films that gave the cities and countries he visited, that much more appeal. In 2004, 200 of Burton Holmes' film canisters were found. Some of them were intact when opened, but many had disintegrated over time and were ruined. But what we still have through works like these is a true tribute to a well-travelled gentleman.

Holmes also once commented that some people were weighted down by money and dreams not realized. Holmes had little money, but he had his memories which he would never exchange for all the riches in the world. And we are all the richer for sharing in those memories.

RATING: 5 BOOKMARKS