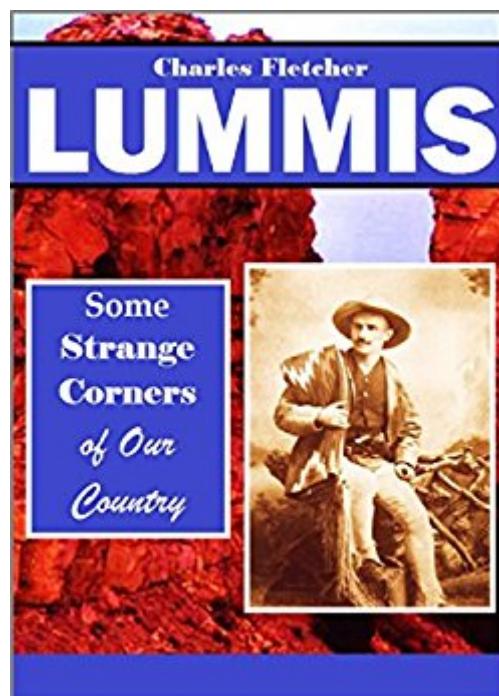


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Some Strange Corners Of Our Country: The Wonderland Of The Southwest (1892)



Synopsis

Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859 – 1928) was a United States journalist and Indian rights and historic preservation activist; he is also known as a historian, photographer, ethnographer, archaeologist, poet and librarian. The average man and, even more yet, the average woman maintains year in and year out a uniform habit of work and play, desiring no radical change of place or of association. Even when the vacation time arrives (for those who can take vacations) there seems to be a general tendency to seek more of that of which they have already had too much. Those who go away now and then to foreign countries usually keep the busy towns and well traveled roads in sight, even begrudging a slow sail across the ocean. It would most surely be better If those who desire absolute rest by means of absolute change would oftener seek out the wild , but by no means forbidden, places on our own continent where nature has tried her most striking experiment and history has left her most curious traces. Such seems to be the opinion of Mr. Lummls, author of 'Some Strange Corners of Our Country". Crossing the Colorado line and continuing westward through Arizona, we come to that stupendous national wonder, the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon. As Lummis, poetically expresses it: "In the very cradle of recorded Time. the Grand Canon was waiting, under the Slow Smile of God for Man to come to it and know his chiefest wonder-vision on earth: this vast chameleon, unearthly, attainable. Mirage in immortal Rock." This volume describes in chapters of convenient length and with numerous excellent illustrations the scenery and the ancient architectural remains of New Mexico and Arizona, but gives far more space to the strange and the always interesting, customs of the Pueblo and Navajo Indians now living in that corner of our country. The descriptions are given in the style of a true story teller, nevertheless the book gives the impression of being highly instructive as well as fascinating. It is the fruit of careful investigations made by Mr. Lummis and his wife among the tribes and in the regions described. Lummis shows himself thoroughly familiar with the scenes he describes. The strange corners are in the Southwest, and the author never forgets it is 'our' country; indeed, the patriotism is so marked as to be almost didactic. 'Don't go to Europe till you have seen what America has to show' is the substance of his advice to his readers. The book is entertaining, although some of the descriptions so exhaust themselves in superlatives as to lose in vividness. A striking chapter is the one concerning the crucifixion ceremonies of the New Mexican Penitentes. Besides this ghastly horror, the realism of Ober-Ammergau pales into insignificance. if the reader be fired with an ambition to see the places and things described , Mr. Lummis will have attained his object.

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Customer Reviews

This is an amazing gem of a book!! Originally published as a travel guide in 1892, it is a truly amazing collection of accounts, and of places to see in the American southwest. Written in a "language" that no longer exists, in a time, unfortunately long gone. The "language" of course is English, but is reminiscent of a 1940's radio guy! The accounts range from witnessing a thunderstorm conjured in a darkened room, to a man getting lost in his backyard, within 100 yards of his home, (in a subterranean cavern) to visiting Montezuma's castle. Explore the pueblo at Taos, the mummy cave and village, Canon Del Muerto, as they existed over a century ago. There are

many fascinating accounts in this absorbing read. I just got lost into this book. This Title is highly recommended, if you are into history, or the southwest, GET THIS BOOK!

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