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Our Indian Summer In The Far West: An Autumn Tour Of Fifteen Thousand Miles In Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, And The Indian Territory (The ... On Art And Photography Of The American West)

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Synopsis

In 1879 two Englishmen, writer Samuel Nugent Townshend and photographer John George Hyde, set out for a pleasant Indian summer on a tour of the American West. The duo documented their travels by steamship and train, through Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Chicago, across the Missouri to the â œnew state of Kansasâ • and the beginning of the western lands and business opportunities that were to become the focus of their narrative. Reprinted here with critical notes and introduction, Our Indian Summer in the Far West offers an enlighteningâ ”and often entertainingâ ”perspective on an early moment in the growth of capitalism and industry in the American West. Originally published as a photographic travelogue and guide to British investment in the American West, Townshend and Hydeâ ™s account is both idiosyncratic and emblematic of its time. Interested in the Westâ ™s economic and environmental potential, the two men focused on farming in Kansas, railroads and mining in Colorado, a bear hunt in New Mexico, and ranching in Texas. The sojournersâ ™ own foibles also enter the narrative: alerted to the difficulty of finding a hotel with a bath, the two Victorians took along a portable bathtub made of India rubber. Their words and pictures speak volumes about contemporary attitudes toward race, empire, and the future of civilization. An introduction by coeditor Alex Hunt provides background on the creators and the travelogue genre. The recovery and republication of this extremely rare volume, an artifact of the Victorian American West, make available an important primary document of a brief but pivotal historical moment connecting the American West and the British Empire.

Book Information

Series: The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West (Book 25)
Hardcover: 200 pages
Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press (September 12, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0806187026
ISBN-13: 978-0806187020
Product Dimensions: 11 x 1 x 11 inches
Shipping Weight: 3.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item
Best Sellers Rank: #576,360 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Essays #181 inÂ Books > Arts

& Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays #306 inÂ Books > Travel > United States > West > General

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