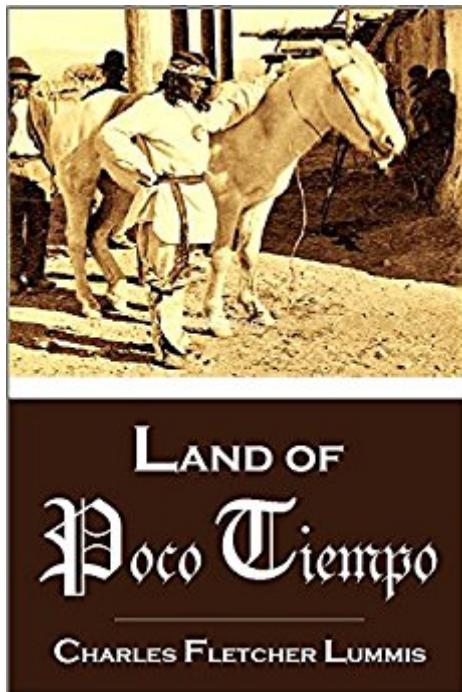


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Land Of Poco Tiempo (1893)



Synopsis

Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859 – 1928) was a United States journalist and an activist for Indian rights and historic preservation. A traveler in the American Southwest, he settled in Los Angeles, California, where he also became known as a historian, photographer, ethnographer, archaeologist, poet and librarian. At last there has been written and suitably published a work on New Mexico or the "Land of Poco Tiempo" (pretty soon), as the title gives it, which does the subject full justice, and while dashing to pieces with iconoclastic hands many of the popular impressions of the land and its people, especially its early people, the author (Prof. Chas. F. Lummis) has constructed in their stead a thoughtful and researchful history, which is not only exceedingly readable but is likely to stand the test of future investigations in this great region, which is such a. fertile field for the student of anthropology and folk-lore. As the author says, "New Mexico is the anomaly of the Republic. It is a century older in European civilization than the rest and several centuries older still in a happy semi-civilization of its own. It had its walled cities of stone before Columbus had grandparents-to-be, and it has them yet. Sun, sunshine and adobe" "that is New Mexico. It is the great American Rip Van Winkle" "the United States which is not the United States. Here is the land of Poco Tiempo" "the home of the ' pretty soon.' Why hurry with the hurrying world? The ' pretty soon ' of New Spain is better than the 'Now,' " "Now" of the haggard States. . . . It is the land of quaint smart faces of oriental dress and unspelled speech, a land where distance is lost and the eye is a liar, a land of ineffable lights and sudden shadows; of polytheism and superstition, where the rattlesnake is a demigod and the cigarette a means of grace, and where Christians mangle and crucify themselves" "the heart of Africa beating against the ribs of the Rockies."

Professor Lummis has not, however, devoted the greater portion of his work to a description of the country, but has opened up to the reader the rich treasures of his years of faithful research into the history and mythology of the curious and interesting New Mexico tribes, descendants of a people who enjoyed a quasi-civilization before Columbus launched the Santa Maria. He disagrees with most writers who have generally asserted that these tribes are the descendants of the true Aztecs, but in doing so he does not rob them of a lineage which leaves the imprint of interest and romance on the present generation. He adds a most entertaining description of the Isleta pueblo in a chapter under the apt title "Lo who is not. poor," in which there is detailed much of the peculiar form of the local government, the agricultural and domestic methods, many, if not all, of which could be copied with benefit by many of our more modern communities. There are also chapters, every page freighted with interest, on Aconia, "the city of the sky," "The Penitent Brothers," "New Mexican Folk-songs" with music, "Cities that were. Forgotten," and some breezy sketches of

Indian warfare. Taken in chapters or as a whole, this volume is extremely interesting and historically instructive, and it is unhesitatingly recommended to readers as being the best of its class which has appeared.

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Customer Reviews

It came in good condition

I live in NM. Things have not changed in some respects over 100 years.

Good book, good service provides an insight and significant feel for the people who live the land and spirit of the S/W region mystical locations.

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