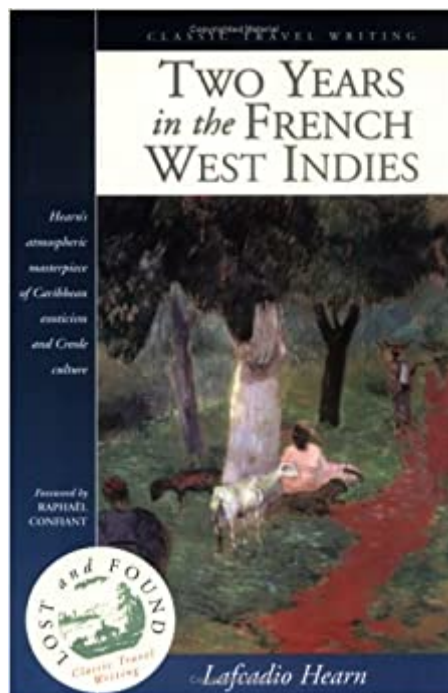




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Two Years In The French West Indies (Lost And Found: Classic Travel Writing)



Synopsis

By the 1930s Western books about China were common. But a book about the West, and particularly London, written by a Chinese author, was a rarity -- and continues to be so. Chiang Yee's account of London, first published in 1938, is original in more ways than one. Not only one of the first widely available books written by a Chinese author in English, it also reverses the expected conventions of travel writing. For here the exotic subject matter is none other than London and its people, quizzically observed as an alien culture by a visiting foreigner. Immersing himself in the strange rituals of London life, Chiang Yee set out to learn about Londoners, their habits and their pleasures. In pubs and cafes, cinemas and art galleries, he watched the locals at work and at play. Fascinated by such social conventions as afternoon tea and discussing the weather, he tried to make sense of British society, treating his subjects with a mix of wonderment and affection. As he lived through the capital's various seasons, and endured the notorious London fogs, Chiang Yee's affinity with the city and its people grew. Illustrated with the author's own atmospheric sketches, *The Silent Traveller in London* is also a book about China and a world in transition. Comparing London with his native land, Chiang Yee draws parallels and contrasts, seeking to rectify misunderstandings and stereotypes regarding Chinese life. First published in 1890, this book offers one of the most detailed and poetic accounts of day-to-day life in the Caribbean ever written. Describing the island's landscape, its flora and fauna, its colonial architecture and rural villages, Hearn provides an invaluable picture of a Caribbean colony where slavery is a recent memory and race an all-important matter of identity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Interlink's newest series, "Lost and Found," aims to revive great works of travel writing by updating them with a new foreword while preserving the unique vision and experiences of each writer. These two inaugural titles will surely be welcomed back in both public and academic libraries. Greek-born journalist, translator, and world traveler Hearn (1850-1904), who remains best known for his *Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan* and *Japan: An Attempt at Interpretation*, has vibrantly reported his travels in French-ruled Martinique during 1887-89. Consisting of "A Midsummer Trip to the Tropics," 12 sketches of Martinique life, a folktale, several short folk music scores, and period illustrations, this poetic account provides views of much that has now disappeared. Hearn's unusual perception of light and color as well as his detailed vintage prose both render a unique and subtle portrayal of the various peoples of Martinique in the early post-slavery period. Students of medieval art and history should applaud the reissue (with new author's preface) of Mullins's 1974 classic. In this compact account, Mullins, a scholar and wordsmith par excellence, makes each "Christ in Majesty" on the tympanums of pilgrimage road churches vivid. In the early 1970s, he followed much of the Santiago pilgrimage road on foot, tracing routes of the Christian faithful, who traveled to Spain to the Galician city of Santiago de Compostela in medieval times. Detailing the sights along the four main routes passing through France from Paris, Vezelay, Le Puy, and Arles, Mullins eloquently discusses the special iconography of pilgrimage churches, the lore of relics, the art of reliquaries, and the life and journey of early pilgrims and their influence on European culture. An astute work based on well-founded sources and the author's erudition, this tome is highly recommended. Margaret W. Norton, Oak Park, IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Hearn (1850-1904) was born in Levkas, Greece, as the son of Greek and British parents. In 1869 he went to the United States and did various work, finally as a journalist. In 1890 he came to Japan and taught English in Japanese schools, and became a Japanese citizen under the name of Koizumi Yakuma. He died in Tokyo. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The author Hearn has a great flair for language and immersing one in the moment, he does a great job of describing life in the french antilles, from carnival time, industry,cultural anecdotes, interesting historical tidbits and the impact of colonization on its populace.I wanted to like this book more but as

a person of African descent it was a bit hard too. Not out of place in his time, Hearn employs a lot of racist language to describe the people of majoritatively African descent. They are "less than comely" and the African is "vulgar" while he seems enthralled by the mixed race people of Martinique, he also seems to find a savagery in their beauty attributed to their African heritage. Otherwise, it was an exuberant, languid depiction of the Islands, You could almost pick up the cadence of Creole being spoken and felt as you yourself ought to be careful to spot the much feared "fer de lance" snake as you traversed Martinique's glowing hills with Mont Pelée fuming in the distance. If you enjoy Caribbean literature particularly that concerning the French Antilles I would recommend authors like Raphael Confiant, Maryse Conde, Gisele Pineau, Jacques Roumain and others.

Lafacadio Hearn travelled to the French West Indies at the end of the 19th Century and while the book is of historical interest, very little of what he observes or writes about is of particular relevance today. His observations reveal the cultural assumptions and biases of his time period ... and very little about the French West Indies.

Interesting observations at that particular historical era. However some of the author's observations were too detailed and causes the reader to lose the thread of the narrative.

This is a great book, purchased at a great price, and delivered at breakneck speed!!! This review is only focused on the condition of the book, the price, and the speed of delivery because I have not read it yet.

good yarn

This one is one of the best you will never regret from purchasing it. I advised not to be using by non professional because it may cut your finger the old one has been broke in my family, delivery so quickly. recommend it to my friend. i will come next time.

A great writer and a fascinating man, better known for his books about Japan... This book is one long Caribbean moment preserved in amber.

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