



Among Unknown Tribes: Rediscovering the Photographs of Explorer Carl Lumholtz (Bill and Alice Wright Photography)

By Bill Broyles, Ann Christine Eek, Phyllis La Farge, Richard Laugharn, Eugenia Macías Guzmán



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Internationally renowned as an exciting guide to unknown peoples and places, Norwegian Carl Lumholtz was a Victorian-era explorer, anthropologist, natural scientist, writer, and photographer who worked in Australia, Mexico, and Borneo. His photographs of the Tarahumara, Huichol, Cora, Tepehuan, Southern Pima, and Tohono O'odham tribes of Mexico and southwest Arizona were among the very first taken of these cultures and still provide the best photographic record of them at the turn of the twentieth century. Lumholtz published his photographs in several books, including *Unknown Mexico* and *New Trails in Mexico*, but, because photographic publishing was then in its infancy, most of the images were poorly printed, badly cropped, or reworked by "illustrators" using crude techniques.

Among Unknown Tribes presents more than two hundred of Lumholtz's best photographs—many never before published—from the archives of the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, Norway. The images are newly scanned, most from the original negatives, and printed uncropped, disclosing a wealth of previously hidden detail. Each photograph is fully identified and often amplified by Lumholtz's own notes and captions. Accompanying the images are essays and photo notes that survey Lumholtz's career and legacy, as well as what his photographs reveal about the "unknown tribes." By giving Lumholtz's photographs the high-quality reproduction they deserve, *Among Unknown Tribes* honors not only the Norwegian explorer but also the native peoples who continue to struggle for recognition and justice as they actively engage in the traditional customs that Lumholtz recorded.



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Bill Broyles is a research associate at the University of Arizona's Southwest Center. His previous books include *Desert Duty: On the Line with the U.S. Border Patrol*, *Sunshot: Peril and Wonder in the Gran Desierto*, and *Our Sonoran Desert*.

Ann Christine Eek is a photo historian, photographer, and digital supervisor in the Department of Documentation at the University of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History. She has written studies and created exhibitions of the photographs of Roald Amundsen and Carl Lumholtz for her museum, including *People Meeting People: Explorer Carl Lumholtz's Photographs from Mexico 1890–1910*.

Phyllis La Farge has worked extensively as an editor and author. Her latest book is *Painted Walls of Mexico*, a vivid photographic look at many aspects of the artfully decorated walls found throughout the country.

Richard Laugharn is a photographer who has documented the Pinacate region chronicled by Lumholtz in *New Trails in Mexico*. His current work involves photographing individual desert plants over time.

Eugenia Macías Guzmán is an anthropologist with a special interest in Carl Lumholtz and his work among indigenous people in Mexico. She's currently part of the curatorial and research team for the Modern Art Museum-INBA in Mexico City.

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