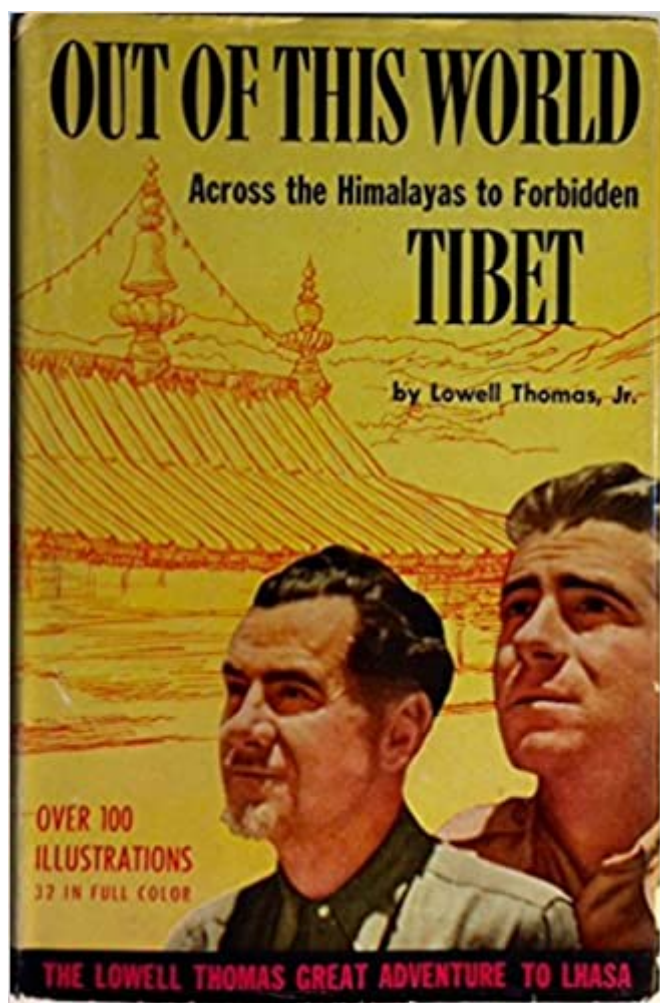


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# Out Of This World; Across The Himalayas To Forbidden Tibet



## Synopsis

Famed travel writer, Lowell Thomas, Jr. takes the reader with him and travels across the Himalayas to Tibet. You will experience a world before technology has taken hold.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Greystone Press: NY (1950)

Language: English

ASIN: B0007DMM38

Package Dimensions: 8.3 x 5.3 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #658,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > Travel > Asia > Tibet #2524 in Books > Travel > Travel Writing #3639 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers

## Customer Reviews

Famed travel writer, Lowell Thomas, Jr. takes the reader with him and travels across the Himalayas to Tibet. You will experience a world before technology has taken hold.

Out of This World: Across the Himalayas to Forbidden Tibet, Lowell Thomas, Jr. I read this book about 60 years ago, as a young lad, and enjoyed it thoroughly at the time. LT, Jr. was also a lad at the time he wrote the book. The book was thoroughly enjoyable, fascinating and highly exciting. When I noticed that a Kindle version was available, I decided that I might enjoy re-reading this delightful book. Though out-dated by world events, the book is still a great read, and I recommend it to all those seeking to read true adventure books. Nate Lerner

The material that the Thomas's give the reader in this book is perhaps out-of-date, but most fascinating at the least! It gives us the description of what Tibet was like in the middle of the 20th century . . . and perhaps help us understand the situation that Tibet is in today. Certainly a good read!

Have only made it 1/2 way through this book, but it's fascinating! The 2 Thomas's descriptions are well done and I keep wondering what challenges they will meet next.

The book was recommended in "Seven Years Across Tibet". I am enjoying learning through Lowell Thomas' eyes.

Page turner.

Very engaging read!

My book copy is a 1950 Hardback. It is the detailed account of father and son team Lowell Thomas Sr. and Jr.'s trek from Siliguri, India to Lhasa, Tibet. They traveled by donkeys through mountain passages and crossing flowing rivers, staying overnight and photographing the friendly villagers they met along the way. These stories and pictorial views were fascinating in and of themselves but they were going until they reached their intended destination. The sixteen year old Dali Lama. The Thirteenth of his line to be pronounced by the Oracle. At sixteen he was too young to rule on his own without the guidance of His Protector. And Lowell and Lowell Thomas had unprecedented access to the young Dali Lama, his family, his Abbots, Protectors and the monks at Drepung Gompa and all the other monasteries. Beautiful photographs, from every stage in their journey, are placed between every second and third page, highlighting the descriptive passages. A look into the lost world of Tibet, vivid imagery giving us a peek into the colorful and spiritual lives of the monks who resided there for centuries, spinning out their prayer wheels, each hat worn for a display of identity. A culture richly carved out throughout centuries of history. All caught by Lowell Thomas amazing eye for color, form, symmetry and most importantly, a journalistic nuance to capture what was of true historical import. When they made that journey back through the villages and mountain passages which led them on the path back towards civilization home—once again, they received a presidential welcome. Lowell Thomas Jr. recounts: "...the President asked me about our journey. So I spread a map before him and pointed out the route we had taken. Mr. Truman studied it for a moment, sighed wistfully and said that he had dreamed of visiting Lhasa, but that he would probably never have the opportunity. The message I turned over to President Truman had been handwritten in Tibetan characters with a bamboo pen on parchment made from the bark of of the Tibetan tree dated the sixteenth day of the seventh month of the Earth Bull year (September 7, 1949)," and read: "Now that Lowell Thomas Sr., and Lowell Thomas Jr., have been able to visit Tibet they are well acquainted with all facts about this country. Therefore the government of Tibet hopes that from them the President of The United States, the people of America, and those who live in other

countries as well, will soon come to know more about Tibet as well. That it is a holy, independent country, a religious country, ruled over by His Holiness, the Dali Lama, who is the True Incarnation of Chenrezi, the Buddha of Mercy. Furthermore, that all Tibetans, including the civilian population as well as the monks, are entirely devoted to religion. We have learned that, unfortunately, throughout this world at the present time, there is an absence of peace and happiness—this because of troubles between people's, and disturbances and conflicts of many kinds. We, the government of Tibet, are much worried, deeply concerned over the present state of the world in which we all live. And we are eager to have it known that here in Tibet, a land that is especially dedicated to religion, all of our people's, both lay and monk, are earnestly praying that God will grant happiness and everlasting peace to to all humanity."

The nation of Tibet is an anomaly in the history of the world. No other country is so isolated, and so controversial in its quest for independence and existence. The nation on "the roof of the world" was independent for many years, became at least partly a vassal of China, then independent again with the fall of the emperor, and was finally invaded and assimilated by the Red Chinese after the fall of the Nationalist government in 1949. The Communists who now run Tibet insist that everyone in the country is happy that their nation is now a vassal of China, and most maps don't show Tibet as a separate country. Most Americans don't know who the Dalai Lama is, beyond that he's a holy man in the Buddhist pantheon. Lowell Thomas, the famous journalist, visited Lhasa (the capitol of Tibet) in 1949 with his son. This book is the son's account of their adventure into Tibet, their meeting with the Dalai Lama, and their impressions of Tibetan life, customs, food, culture, and society. It is, frankly fascinating. My book was the edition from the late 50s, and it contains numerous photographs (at times there's a picture every other page) and three sections of color photographs besides. The book is written from a late 40s perspective, so there are differences between it and the way a book like this would be written now, but those differences are easy to overlook: this is one of the few looks we have at pre-Communist Tibet, and you can't be a chooser when things are so scarce. I enjoyed this book a great deal. The story is interesting, and the people of Tibet appear to be an interesting race, with fascinating beliefs and customs. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the subject.

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