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Puerto Rico Remembered



Synopsis

Puerto Rico Remembered features 175 color photographs, many never before published, that show the Puerto Rico of the past—before the cruise ships began to dock in its ports and the tourists began to flock to its resorts. From young men selling fruit from curbside stalls to families shopping on busy streets to other scenes set against a backdrop of palm trees and bright sunshine, the photos in Puerto Rico Remembered are snapshots of the everyday that bring readers back to a simpler time. Blending memories with historical facts, Puerto Rico Remembered highlights the sights and sounds of the city that have been swept away by wrecking balls, modernization, and time—but will never be forgotten.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Fernando Pico has taught at the University of Puerto Rico after he returned to Puerto Rico (from teaching at Fordham) forty years ago. He has been a Luis Muñoz-Marín Foundation Trustee since its establishment in 1980 and the senior Trustee since 2002. He is one of the leading historians of his generation with about 30+ titles published under his name either as sole author or editor on Puerto Rican or Caribbean history. He has served several times as Chair, DUS or DGS at the History Department at the University of Puerto Rico and was elected this summer as President of the Association of Historians of the Caribbean.

This is a spectacularly beautiful collection of wonderful color photographs from the 1940s-50s in Puerto Rico. As noted in the text, this was the period when Kodachrome and other color slide films

were coming into popular use, and when missionaries and others seeking public service went to the island in significant numbers, often with their families and cameras and film. Although the photographs were taken by visitors to the island, these are not merely tourist images. The nature of the work and interests of the photographers took them into communities with personal interaction. The beauty and historical significance of these photos is such that I literally gasped aloud repeatedly on going through the book. My only quibbles: While many photographs are very well identified, too many do not identify the location; and some parts of the island seem to be not very well represented (specifically the east, and the northwest). The printing and production of the book are excellent. Anyone who remembers - or has heard stories about - Puerto Rico in this period, should own this book.

This book is an amazing tribute to those years in which our grandparents in Puerto Rico lived in a land where capitalism had yet not taken a toll on the Puerto Rican psyche. A time in which they could build their own houses, grow their own food, and make their own clothes...a time in which none of those things were seen as "backwards" and we were not slaves to paper money. Absolutely amazing and nostalgic. We can learn tons from back then and apply it now to our "modern" world to make it a better place! The beauty and happiness of the land and the people is absolutely fascinating to see in such a detailed photographic experience in 1940's Puerto Rico.

"Puerto Rico Remembered" (2010). Esta reciente publicación nos presenta un Puerto Rico lleno de color en los años oscuros del 1940's y 1950's. Este colectivo, dirigido por Tom Lehman, nos presenta un Puerto Rico visto por una serie de fotógrafos, la gran mayoría de ellos, gente común. Esto es precisamente lo que hace especial esta publicación, originada por T. Lehman por medio de un proyecto a través de la red social Flickr donde se recopilaban no solo las imágenes publicadas sino otras más que se pueden apreciar en la galería de "t13hman" bajo el espacio que ofrece el portal ya mencionado el cual además permite la publicación de fotos y la interacción entre fotógrafos. Lo peculiar de esta publicación es que esta reúne fotógrafos no profesionales que ejercían algunos como doctores, especialistas de la medicina, trabajadores sociales, trabajadores de mantenimiento, agricultores, agrónomos, maestros, pastores y otros líderes religiosos; todos "americanos". Estos demuestran que no tienen nada que envidiar de sus contemporáneos profesionales como Jack Delano quien además participa en este libro el cual además presenta las imágenes con una alta calidad y colorido. Además los breves subtítulos y comentarios bilingües, en cada foto hace de esta una experiencia más apreciable. Una vez

más vemos, como un grupo organizado, esta vez religioso en su gran mayoría, nos aporta una documentación que enriquece la historia de el Puerto Rico de los 40's y 50's. Puerto Rico, la fotografía y su historia le deben un agradecimiento a estos grupos menonitas quienes aportaron también en otros aspectos más humanísticos en la isla. Un Puerto Rico agrícola; experimentando una fuerte presencia americanizadora; preservando aún muchas de las costumbres autóctonas que hoy día representan lo puertorriqueño; reflejando los primeros pasos de un movimiento que vendrá para quedarse en la cultura hasta hoy día. Estas son algunas de las cosas que se pueden apreciar en este libro, testigo de lo que fue y ya no es pero aún sigue entre nosotros. Además este libro, ingeniosamente clasifica las fotografías de la siguiente manera: * Agricultura e industria * Trabajo y diversión * Costumbres y ceremonias religiosas * Retratos * Vivienda * Turismo, viaje y transporte * Lugares de interés * Ciudad y Campo. No podemos ignorar el prólogo por T. Lehman y la introducción por Fernando Picó. También cuenta con una reveladora sección "Acerca de los fotógrafos". En fin, "Puerto Rico Remembered", o "Recuerdos de Puerto Rico" como es traducido, cuenta con una introducción por Fernando Picó quien ofrece un testimonio personal y muy relevante sobre los cambios significativos en el Puerto Rico que le tocó crecer; el Puerto Rico de los 40's hasta los 60's.

This was a gift for my father in-law. He grew up in Puerto Rico during this time. He couldn't put the book down. I think he is really going to enjoy looking at this book over time.

Being of Puerto Rican decent, I enjoyed the history and culture and the comparison of the earlier life and the modern culture. I would recommend it to anyone that has visited PR or plans to travel to the island in the future.

My wife who was born in Puerto Rico in the 1950s loved this volume. It reminded her of her island home in a much simpler time. A great pictorial view of a time and place now gone.

My mother grew up in Puerto Rico and this book brought back many good memories for her. She loved it!

Wonderful coffee table book.

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