

**TRAMPING WITH A
POET IN
THE ROCKIES**

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Tramping with a Poet in the Rockies by Stephen Graham & Vachel Lindsay

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STEPHEN GRAHAM & VACHEL LINDSAY

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THE ROCKIES**

BOOKS BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

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Tramping with a Poet in the Rockies.

TRAMPING WITH A POET
IN THE ROCKIES



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TRAMPING
WITH A POET
IN THE ROCKIES

BY

STEPHEN GRAHAM

AUTHOR OF "A TRAMP'S SKETCHES," ETC.

WITH THIRTY-EIGHT EMBLEMS BY

VERNON HILL

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PREFACE

VACHEL LINDSAY is the poet. He is best known as the author of "General William Booth enters Heaven," "The Congo," and "Johnny Appleseed." He also wrote a highly comical piece called "The Daniel Jazz." He is a wonderful reciter, and is aided by a sonorous, heaven-reaching voice. All his poems are written to be read aloud, chanted, or declaimed; in some cases they are written to be danced also, and played as games. In many of his recitations the audience is called upon to take part in choruses and refrains. Thus, in one poem, when Lindsay says, "I've been to Palestine," the audience as one man has to cry back to him, "*What did you see in Palestine?*" This is rapturously enjoyed by the audience. When you have heard the poet you can well understand that he did not starve when he used to tramp in America and

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recite to the farmers for a meal and a night's lodging. He has gained a great popularity.

He is, however, something more than an entertainer. He has a spiritual message to the world, and is deeply in earnest. In a large experience of men and women in many countries I have rarely met such a rebel against vulgarity, materialism, and the modern artificial way of life. At the same time, despite his poetry, he is almost inarticulate. He has helped me, and here in a way I help him by giving in a new form part of the richness of his thoughts and his opinions.

Vachel Lindsay visited England in 1920, and recited his poems at Oxford and Cambridge and to several groups of friends in London. His mother, Catharine Frazee Lindsay, who accompanied him, was a notable woman in Springfield, Illinois, in religious and progressive activities. She succumbed to an attack of pneumonia this year. But those who met her in this country recognised in her a remarkable figure. At Vachel's invitation I visited Springfield last summer, and we went to the Rockies, and tramped together to Canada, and this volume is a record of our holiday. A mutual