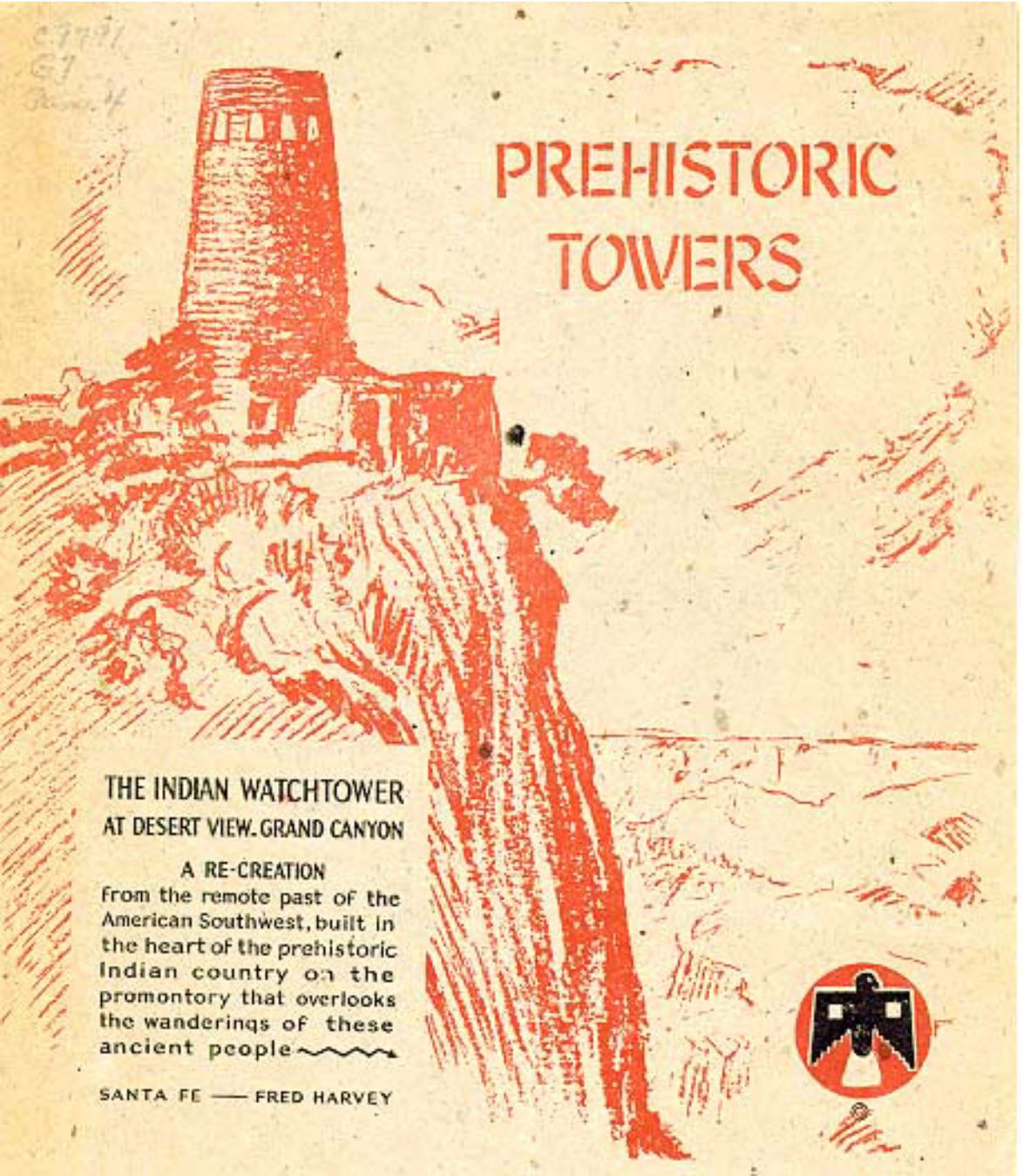


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# PREHISTORIC TOWERS



## THE INDIAN WATCHTOWER AT DESERT VIEW, GRAND CANYON

### A RE-CREATION

From the remote past of the American Southwest, built in the heart of the prehistoric Indian country on the promontory that overlooks the wanderings of these ancient people ~~~~~

SANTA FE — FRED HARVEY





## PREHISTORIC TOWERS

MYSTERY surrounds the origin and uses of prehistoric towers—whether found in the Old World or the New. They stand enigmas of the past, confounding men of science who seek to read their secrets in the remains of stone walls and great buildings that give mute testimony to the high civilization of prehistoric man.

Looking down upon the rolling plains of the great South African plateau, a mysterious conical tower built of granite blocks astonishes the traveler in southern Rhodesia. Who built this tower and its great enclosure at Zimbabwe?



ZIMBABWE

As great a mystery today as ever are the famous round towers in Ireland! How much is yet to be unraveled about the stepped pyramids of the Aztec and Mayan cultures—those structures of Mexico and

Central America that wise men say were astronomical observatory towers?

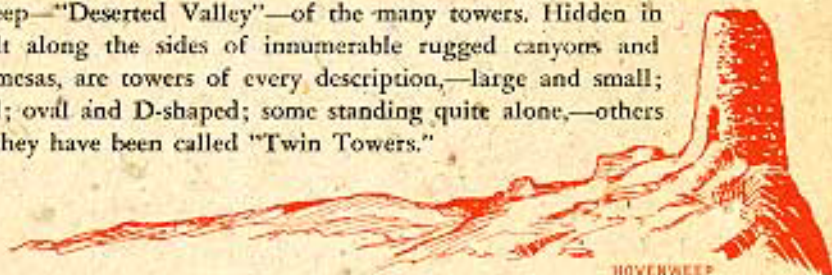
All eyes are turned to the amazing ruins of Chan-Chan, the pre-Inca city on the coast of Peru. Will this interest bring to light its secrets? Who can write the true story of that great tower in ancient Ur, which the Sumerians called "The House of the Mountain"?

—or those strange towers of Manchuria?—or the marvelous Citadel of Damghan in Persia?—or the tremendous ziggurats of Angkor Vat in Indo-China?



CITADEL OF DAMGHAN

No region teems with greater mystery,—no towers hold greater lure, or challenge the archaeologist more, than our own Southwest and its prehistoric towers built by the so-called "Cliff-dwellers," the ancestors of the modern Pueblo Indians. In the territory known as "the Four Corners", where the boundaries of Arizona, Utah, New Mexico and Colorado meet, towers are the outstanding form of building. Here is Hovenweep—"Deserted Valley"—of the many towers. Hidden in the arroyos; built along the sides of innumerable rugged canyons and dotted over the mesas, are towers of every description,—large and small; square and round; oval and D-shaped; some standing quite alone,—others so closely allied they have been called "Twin Towers."



HOVENWEEP



Nearby Mesa Verde boasts its towers, built not only in the natural caves of the cliffs, but on the broad mesas above. A tower forms an important part of nearly every one of these prehistoric pueblos. Within sight of the village towers, which must have formed a part of the communal life, stands a solitary shaft overlooking Navajo Canyon—"Navajo Watchtower", one of the most spectacular towers in the whole Southwest. Nearer to the Grand Canyon—but thirty miles away—are the tower-like buildings of "Wupatki." Its great Citadel, rising out of a terraced dome of lava, appears to guard the many ruins lying at its feet. Wupatki's stately "Castle", unneighbored for miles by lesser structures, stands alone in its glory. Too small itself to shelter a community of people, what was its purpose on that wide mesa? Some say it was an outpost fort.

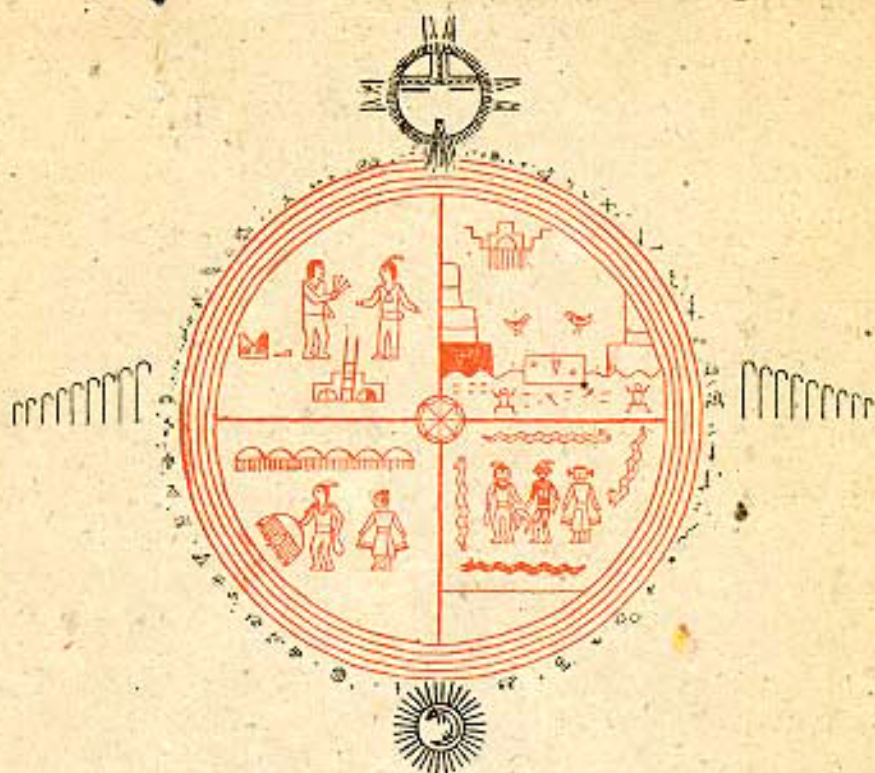


There is strong reason to believe that many towers were used as forts—for defense and lookout purposes. Often loopholed and built, as many were, on high canyon cliffs or mesas overlooking surrounding plains and desert, there can be little doubt that from their heights a sentinel kept watchful eye for the approaching enemy. Some towers show signs of habitation—many are divided into rooms and evidence has been found of grain storage. Another much favored theory is that these prehistoric Indian towers were built for astronomical observations—for the study of the sun, moon and stars in connection with religious rites. The frequent presence of adjoining sacred ceremonial chambers, called kivas, give support to this interpretation.



Much is known about Kivas—their structure and purposes—for kivas have continued to be built and used to the present day;—they are still the temples of a living religion, a part of a people's daily life,—and from the kiva of today the story of the kiva of yesterday is reconstructed. \* \* \* The TOWER, as a form of Indian architecture, is a thing of the past—as much a subject of speculation as the legendary Tower of Babel!





Over ten feet in diameter and painted in the symbolic colors used by Pueblo people since prehistoric times, this decoration by the Hopi artist, Kabotie, dominates the first room of the Indian Watchtower.

It tells one of the oldest myths of the Hopi people—the story of the Chief's young son who was the first man to navigate the length of the Colorado River;—who trusted himself to its rapids in a hollowed log boat until he came to the Great Salt Water;—who won the Snake Princess and then became the first Snake Priest at Walpi. He inaugurated the Snake Dance which still is held each year,—but that is another story!

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