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## The Silent Traveller in London (Lost Found: Classic Travel Writing)

*Chiang Yee*

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**Chiang Yee : The Silent Traveller in London (Lost Found: Classic Travel Writing)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Silent Traveller in London (Lost Found: Classic Travel Writing):

First published in 1938, this book by Chiang Yee is original in more ways than one. It was one of the first available titles written in English by a Chinese author, but it also reversed the expected conventions of travel writing, as the "exotic" subject becomes London and its people, as observed by a foreigner. Chiang Lee, immersing himself in the strange rituals of London life, set out to learn about Londoners, their habits and their pleasures. He watched locals at work and at play. He was fascinated by such social conventions as afternoon tea and discussing the weather. He tried to make sense of British society, and as Chiang Yee lived through the capital's various seasons his affinity with the place and its people grew, all reflected in his simple and lyrical prose. "The Silent Traveller in London" contains sketches in the author's own hand. It is also a book about China and a world in transition. Comparing London with his native land Chiang Yee draws parallels and contrasts, seeking to rectify misunderstandings and stereotypes regarding Chinese life.

"utterly charming..." - Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*  
About the Author  
Chiang Yee (1903-1977) was born in China and lived in London before settling in the United States. A painter, calligrapher, poet, and travel writer, he produced several volumes in the "Silent Traveller" series as well as the classic textbook *Chinese Calligraphy*.