

*Though the great song return no more
There is keen delight in what we have:
The rattle of pebbles on the shore
Under the receding wave.*

William Butler Yeats
The Nineteenth Century and After

S. A. Mitchell's classic text *Eclipses of the Sun* singles out the year 1889 as inaugurating "the splendid series of expeditions sent out from the Lick Observatory." In the forty-five years that followed, Lick astronomers, carrying with them tons of equipment and supplies, established temporary observing stations in French Guiana, Chile, Japan, India, Sumatra, Labrador, Spain, Egypt, the South Pacific, Russia, Australia, Mexico, and four of the United States, often at inaccessible sites and under difficult conditions.

The scientific results obtained by the expeditions have long since become part of the larger fabric of physics and astronomy, while the expeditions' historical legacy has grown ever more rare and precious as the world through which these scientific travelers moved has receded from memory.

All artifacts courtesy of the University California Observatories Lick Observatory Historical Collections Project. Eclipse Expedition Video by Simon Holland and Anthony Misch, 2017. Lick Observatory room curated by Anthony Misch.