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atolls of the Gilbert Islands in Micronesia; from the Kingdom of Hawai'i' s political ambitions to Samoan plantations and the Stevensons' settlement at Vailima. Central to this study is the notion that Pacific history and Pacific Island cultures matter to the interpretation of Stevenson's work, and a rigorous historical and cultural contextualization ensures that local details structure literary and photographic interpretation. The book's historical grounding is key to its insightful conclusions regarding travel, settlement, photography, and colonialism.