

I've been to a lot of places in my life and have taken photographs in all of them, although I can't find all of the photographs from all of the places. That's probably just as well that in putting together this book I've limited myself to my more recent travels—Australia, China, Hong Kong, Mexico, Spain, New Zealand, the United States. So what you're not seeing are photographs from Austria, Canada, France, Gibraltar, Italy, Germany, Greece, Morocco, and The Netherlands. I actually lived in Morocco for a year, courtesy of the U.S. Navy. We were cautioned about photographing locals and so my photographs from there are of Navy colleagues who posed.

The photographs in this book were not posed. In most cases I saw something interesting and I raised my camera and shot as quickly as I could. I did not want to be seen and thus change the situation. I learned a long time ago that when you ask people if you may take their photo, they pose. Posed photos are nice, but are a level removed from documentary. I prefer to document.

In some cases, I walked around with the camera cupped in my left arm and waist high and surreptitiously took photos with my left thumb.

That's why some people appear to be looking down at me.

I also have a lot of photographs of places, but the more I photograph (and I've been taking photographs since 1953), the more I like to photograph people. When you come right down to it, people are infinitely more interesting than places. I hope you agree.

*R. Dennis Brown*