

SWEET PAIN

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Global adventures
of a frugal photographer

Eric Sorila-Rothberg

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COVER PHOTO

The Royal Mail ship HMS St Helena brought me to a unique world, the rocky island of St Helena where Napoleon was imprisoned from 1815 until his death in 1821.

Cover Photo : Eric Sorila-Rothberg

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DEDICATION

To my travel companion

Victor (Veikko) Kummila

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INTRODUCTION.

As a landscape photographer, to wait hours for the right quality of light, and then have someone ruin the composed image by stepping into it is painful.

When all has gone well in taking a photograph, a branch in a jungle hits the camera back causing the large format plate film to slide out and be ruined by exposure to light is very painful.

Almost every photo trip brings frustration and pain. Yet after forty years I keep photographing. Why ?

I don't pretend to have a total answer, but to capture a moment in time which brings unique satisfaction beyond compare is a sweet reward combined with my passion for travel. It must be SWEET PAIN that keeps me going.

In praise of frugality I cannot say enough.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) one of the founding fathers of the United States condensed frugality into one sentence of good advice; "Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship".

In my travels I have tried to save money even with small expenses. This frugal travel style has allowed me to see much more of our beautiful world than I would have by being wasteful.

There have been times when sleeping in a cave or on a hard floor has been challenging or even painful, but the savings have been sweet.

I like the observation by the Quaker sociologist Elise Boulding (1920-2010) "Frugality is one of the most beautiful and joyful words in the English language, and yet one that we are culturally cut off from. The consumption society has made us feel that happiness lies in having things, and has failed to teach us the happiness of not having things".

When I started travelling I almost fainted on a mountain hike carrying a duffle bag full of things.

That experience thought me to travel lightly, by carrying the bare necessities which basically are, a toothbrush, notepad and a camera.

The most important and expensive among these three items is my Graflex view camera, but even that was a used one when I bought it for \$ 125.00

The same camera has served me for decades and I have no need for a new one.

The cost of using large format sheet film to do my work is expensive. At \$ 5.00 for taking one picture I need to be very careful before exposing a film in order not to waste.

I would have been bankrupted in the beginning of my career had I taken photographs the " digital way". " Take many pictures and choose the best ", is a guideline which I cannot afford to follow.

Each photograph counts. When I hear the sound of the camera shutter after lengthy deliberation, it is the sound of ecstasy ! All of my resources have been compacted into that one photo.

The subject matter, composition and the quality of light must form a praiseworthy marriage before the photograph can be taken.

After trying to capture the perfect picture for forty years I still chase that illusive image. But in the process I have learned to be frugal in being selective as to what and how I photograph a subject, and what is the least expensive way of getting to a desired location.

For the sake of convenience to the reader I have converted all foreign currencies into the approximate value of US dollars.

Welcome to a global photo journey during which many desperate situations turn into SWEET PAIN.

Vancouver Canada January 1.2011

Eric Sorila-Rothberg

The list of 125 travel destinations are from the time when I visited them. Some of the names may have changed later. Experiences in twelve of them are included in this book which are marked with an asterisk.

Albania	Great Britain	Paraguay
Algiers	Greece	Peru
Andorra	Guatemala	Philippines
Antarctica	Guyana	Poland
Argentina	Haiti	Portugal
*Australia	Hawaii	Puerto Rico
Austria	Holland	Romania
Bahamas	Honduras	Russia
Bangladesh	Hong Kong	San Marino
Barbados	Iceland	*Scotland
Belarus	India	Senegal
Belgium	Indonesia	Sikkim
Belize	Ireland	Singapore
Bermuda	Israel	Slovakia
Bhutan	Italy	Slovenia
Bolivia	Jamaica	*South Korea
Brazil	*Japan	*South Africa
Bulgaria	Jordan	Spain
Cambodia	Kenya	*St Helena
Canada	Laos	St Lucia
Chile	Latvia	Surinam
China	*Lebanon	Syria
Colombia	Linchtenstain	Sweden
Cook Islands	*Lithuania	Switzerland
Corsica	Luxemburg	Tahiti
Costa Rica	Malasia	Taiwan
Croatia	Malta	Tanzania
Cuba	Marocco	Thailand
Cyprus	Martinique	Tibet
Czechoslovakia	*Mexico	Tonga
Denmark	Monaco	Trinidad

Dubai	Mongolia	Tunisia
Egypt	Myanmar	Turkey
El Salvador	Namibia	Ukraine
*England	Nepal	*United States
Equator	New-Zealand	Uruguay
Estonia	Nicaragua	Vanuatu
*Fiji	North Korea	Vatican
Finland	Norway	Vietnam
France	Pakistan	Yugoslavia
French Guiana	Panama	W. Samoa
Germany	Papua N.Gunea	