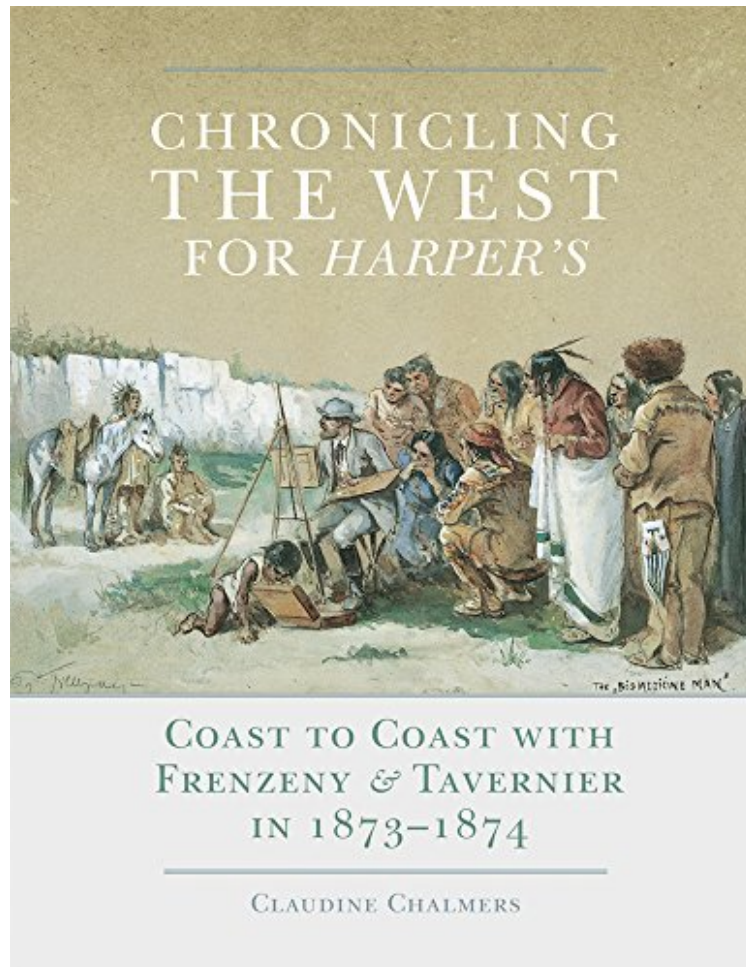


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Chronicling the West for Harper's: Coast to Coast with Frenzeny Tavernier in 1873-1874 (The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West Series)

Claudine Chalmers

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Claudine Chalmers : Chronicling the West for Harper's: Coast to Coast with Frenzeny Tavernier in 1873-1874 (The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Chronicling the West for Harper's: Coast to Coast with Frenzeny Tavernier in 1873-1874* (The Charles M. Russell Center Series on Art and Photography of the American West Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book worth buying By Francois-Marie Patorni As usual, Claudine Chalmers has produced a remarkable work, informative and beautiful, a book with a "for ever shelf life". Bravo

Claudine, I am looking forward to your next project.

The opening of the West after the Civil War drew a flood of Americans and immigrants to the frontier. Among the liveliest records of the westering of the 1870s is the series of prints collected for the first time in this book. Chronicling the West for Harpers showcases 100 illustrations made for the weekly magazine by French artists Paul Frenzeny and Jules Tavernier on a cross-country assignment in 1873 and 1874. The pair Frenzeny Tavernier, as they signed their work documented the newly accessible territories, their diverse inhabitants, and the changing frontier. Historian Claudine Chalmers focuses on the life and work of Frenzeny and Tavernier, who were accomplished and adventurous enough to succeed as special artists, the label Harpers Weekly gave the illustrators it sent into the field. The job required imagination, courage, and adaptability, not to mention expert draftsmanship. Frenzeny, a skilled artist who accepted his adopted countrys many cultures, was also a superb horseman. Tavernier had been trained to work fast in a variety of media. Both men had the advantage of viewing America with fresh eyes. They began their artistic record in the East with *An Emigrant Boarding-House* in New York. Their journey ended in San Francisco, where they sketched the citys bustling Chinatown and pastoral Marin County suburbs. Along with each illustration, the artists sent Harpers a description; those captions are reproduced here. Frenzeny and Tavernier documented the frontier as it evolved. They depicted the hazards of travel and settlement, from fires to destitution, and presented disconcerting subject mattersuch as the *Sioux Sun Dance* in relentless detail. Their skill has made some of their drawings, among them *The Strike in the Coal Mine*, classics of American culture. With pencil and woodblock, Chalmers shows, these intrepid Frenchmen shaped public perceptions of the West for decades to come.

About the Author Claudine Chalmers, an independent historian, is the author of *Splendide Californie! Impressions of the Golden State by French Artists, 1786 to 1900*.