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Lost Mines Of The Great Southwest

John D. Mitchell

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The search for Lost Mines and Hidden Treasures has ever intrigued mankind and for ages has worn the glamour of legend and romantic mystery. All over the West and Great Southwest rich mineral deposits were found by emigrants and prospectors who could not stop to work them at the time of discovery, or were prevented by hostile Indians from doing so, and in this way they became lost. Ancient and valuable collections of gold and silver remained buried with the wiping out of the Aztec civilization and later with the passing of the Spanish Conquistadors and the decay and destruction of the early Spanish Missions. Western lore is replete with such incidents, some of which have, no doubt, grown in magnitude of wealth as time elapsed as most traditions do in the extended retrospective until history becomes distorted. The Toltecs and Aztecs understood the mining and smelting of gold and silver and used it for ornaments with which to adorn themselves and to make shields and household utensils. The great treasures that belonged to the Aztecs and Incas were buried to prevent them from falling into Spanish hands. These great hoards are scattered all over South America and Mexico and all that part of the Great Southwest that belonged to Mexico at the time of the

Spanish Conquest. That the following stories have an authentic background is amply proven by history. The fact that many of the old mines and treasures referred to in the following chapters have not yet been located has not prevented the author from giving important details as to their value and location.