

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/frederic-lees-in-varese-ligure/>

This video is a detailed discussion about a travel writing chapter contributed by the speaker, prompted by requests from a former PhD student, David Robinson, who co-edited a book titled *Travel Writing in an Age of Global Quarantine*. The chapter focuses on the travel writer Frederick Lease, known for his eccentric character and extensive writings on France and Italy in the early 20th century. Lease's book *Wanderings on the Italian Riviera*, published in 1912, documented his journey through the Liguria region, emphasizing his preference for walking and exploring areas off the tourist path.

The speaker reflects on the significance of Lease's work, highlighting its originality as one of the first detailed accounts of Liguria in English, along with its rich cultural context that includes the impact of modernity and landscape changes over time. The discussion also depicts the contrast between Lease's extensive single visit and the speaker's own shorter, repetitive travels to the same region over the years.

Furthermore, it touches on themes of sustainable tourism and the evolving nature of travel, comparing historical perspectives with contemporary experiences, particularly in light of restrictions experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The speaker believes that revisiting historical travel narratives like Lease's can offer insights into present landscapes and inform future travel practices, revealing connections between the past and present while emphasizing the importance of understanding both cultural and environmental changes in travel contexts.