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THE COVER

The picture on the Cover is that of the interior of the Hall of Ambassadors in the Alcazar (Ar. al-Qsar—Palace) at Seville, Spain.

The oldest part of the Alcazar of Seville was built by a Toledan architect for the Muwahhid Governor in the early part of the thirteenth century C.E. It was restored in the Muslim style by Mudejar workmen for King Peter the Cruel in 1353 C.E. The Alcazar of Seville is the most renowned Alcazar (Palace) the Moors built in Spain and is the only one surviving.

The picture gives an idea of the profuse and graceful decorations of the superb remains of the Alcazar.

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THE COVER

The picture on the cover is that of the world-famous building, Taj Mahal, better known as The Taj, at Agra, India. The Taj is a splendid tomb built by the Mogul Emperor, Shah Jehan (1627-1638 C.E.) for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, where he also buried. It was begun in 1632 and was completed by 1650. The Taj is the most beautiful building in the world. (The Encyclopedia Britannica, the University of Chicago Edition, 1950.) The tomb proper consists of a domed square white marble building raised on a terrace from the corners of which rise four slim white minarets. The whole is set in an exquisite garden surrounded by a red sandstone wall; a gate and a mosque are subsidiary elements in the composition.

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The picture on the cover is that of one of the oldest existing mosques in Indonesia, built in the 15th century when Islam was introduced into Indonesia by Arab Muslims settlers and merchants. This mosque, known as the "Old Mosque", is situated in Labuan, Sumatra. The slender columns and decor of the building reminds one of the mosques in North Africa and Spain.

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