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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (11.21.25)

Author (as it should appear on the book): William Wylie

Title: *The Eighty-Eight*

Subtitle: *Photographs from a Japanese Pilgrimage*

Contributors: with an essay by Pico Iyer

Partner: Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

Book pages: 132

Number and type of illustrations: 91 color photographs by the author

Trim size: 11.0" x 9.0" (landscape/horizontal)

List price: \$45.00

Discount: Trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-960521-14-9

ISBNs (electronic): N.A.

Edition: Clothbound

E-book? TBD

Jacket: Yes

Edition size: 750

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Advances due: February 2026

To warehouse: March 2026

Printed in: Italy

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Japan/Photography/Buddhism

Audience: Anyone interested in or visiting Japan, especially those who know about and/or walk the famous Eighty-Eight Temple Pilgrimage (the Shikoku Pilgrimage); lovers and buyers of books of photography and about Japan; those who follow or are inspired by Buddhism.

Selling points (list three): The Shikoku Eighty-Eight Temple pilgrimage is revered in Japan and also worldwide, and this book like this shows what pilgrims experience in walking from one Buddhist temple to another along the circuit's intriguing 750 miles (1,200 kilometers); Pico Iyer is a HUGE name, so his introductory essay should open many doors; and William Wylie is a renowned photographer whose work is revered and collected worldwide.

Tagline: A unique look at walking the famous Eighty-Eight Temple Pilgrimage in Japan!

Description of the work:

The Eighty-Eight Temple Pilgrimage, on the island of Shikoku in Japan, consists of walking to eighty-eight Buddhist temples and numerous other sacred sites along a circular route of about 1,200 kilometers (746 miles). Its legendary status is rooted in the life of the monk Kūkai (774–855 CE), who trained and performed miracles at some of the sites along the path. Kūkai (later known as Kōbō Daishi) would found the Shingon sect of Buddhism in Japan, and devotees would embark on this pilgrimage to honor him. Today, individuals take on the pilgrimage for various reasons: from religious devotion to the physical and mental challenges of completing the circuit and the chance to experience Japan’s natural beauty and vernacular landscapes.

As photographer William Wylie approached his sixtieth birthday, he saw an opportunity to mark the auspicious occasion with a symbolic journey, one that would offer some kind of transformative experience and allow him to indulge in his enduring interest in rambling. Not a practicing Buddhist but with a deep connection to nature and an interest in the power of places, he arrived prepared for austere temples and raked stone gardens on the Shikoku trek. What he found in between the eighty-eight temples was equally as provocative and memorable as experiencing the temples themselves. Everywhere he walked a landscape spread out before him like a beautiful accident, where the aim of the day’s walking was immersion, to slow down and “listen for the crickets behind the bath house,” as Issa, the famous Haiku poet, would say.

The Eighty-Eight: Photographs from a Japanese Pilgrimage features ninety-one of Wylie’s captivating photographs from his journey as well as an introductory essay by the noted author Pico Iyer, who writes, “What you seek may be nowhere but right here, right now, and William Wylie offers that truth with rich surprise and depth as he walks along a path that can teach many of us, profoundly, how to live.”

Blurbs:

“The minute I join William Wylie on the walk he took through Japan’s quietest and most rural island, dressed as all pilgrims are in white, carrying a staff and wearing a sedge hat, I recognize the land where I’ve been living since 1987. It’s what I think of as the forgotten, all too easily overlooked Japan. To walk along these paths with William Wylie and his photographs is to take on the slow and patient attentiveness of a pilgrim, everything seen at a human pace and with the eyes of a passerby who seeks to remain anonymous.”

—Pico Iyer, from his introduction

About the Author:

Short bio:

William Wylie is Commonwealth Professor of Art at the University of Virginia. His photographs and films have been shown nationally and internationally, including *100 Great American Photographs* at the Amon Carter

Museum, *Pompeii: Photographs and Fragments* at the Yale University Art Gallery, *Route 36* at the Joslyn Art Museum, and *Visions du Reel* at the International Film Festival in Switzerland. Wylie's work can be found in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Yale University Art Museum, among others. His previous books of photographs are: *Riverwalk: Explorations Along the Cache LA Poudre River* (University Press of Colorado, 2000), *Stillwater* (Nazraeli Press, 2002), *Carrara* (Center for American Places, 2009), *Route 36* (Flood Editions, 2010), *Pompeii Archive* (Yale University Press, 2018), and *A Prairie Season* (Flood Editions, 2020), all concerned with recognizing how landscapes are created and transformed and how we find our places in them.

Long bio:

William Wylie was born in Harvey, Illinois, in 1957. He earned his M.F.A. from the University of Michigan. In 2000, he joined the faculty of the University of Virginia, where he is Commonwealth Professor of Art. Previously, he taught photography at Colorado State University. His previous books of photographs are: *Riverwalk: Explorations Along the Cache LA Poudre River* (University Press of Colorado, 2000), *Stillwater* (Nazraeli Press, 2002), *Carrara* (Center for American Places, 2009), *Route 36* (Flood Editions, 2010), *Pompeii Archive* (Yale University Press, 2018), and *A Prairie Season* (Flood Editions, 2020), all concerned with recognizing how landscapes are created and transformed and how we find our places in them. His photographs and films have been shown internationally, including *100 Great American Photographs* at the Amon Carter Museum, *Pompeii: Photographs and Fragments* at the Yale University Art Gallery, *Route 36* at the Joslyn Art Museum, and *Visions du Reel* at the International Film Festival in Switzerland. Wylie has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in Photography and a Virginia Museum of Fine Art Professional Fellowship, and he was the Doran Artist-in-Residence in Italy through the Yale University Art Museum. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Yale University Art Museum, among others.

About the Contributor:

Pico Iyer is the author of seventeen books, which are translated into twenty-three languages, including those whose subject is Japan: *A Beginner's Guide to Japan: Observations and Provocations* (2019), *Autumn Light: Season of Fire and Farewells* (2019), and *The Lady and the Monk: Four Seasons in Kyoto* (1991), all published by Alfred A. Knopf.