If you want to do historical research, don’t even bother with books written *about* the time period - just go straight to the source. This was first published in 1937, and it’s the most brilliant window into the crazy world of Cambridge university in the 1930s - or, at least, it was.

Authored under the pseudonym Whipplesnaith it recounts the courageous (or foolhardy) nocturnal exploits of a group of students climbing the ancient university and town buildings of Cambridge. These daring stegophilic feats, including such heights as the Fitzwilliam Museum and the venerable King’s College Chapel, were recorded with prehistoric photographic paraphernalia car...more

Paperback, 250 pages
Published 2007 by Oleander

January 25, 2007
1 of 4
least, the subset of it that liked to go illegally climbing buildings in the middle of the night for fun. Mr Whipplesnaith, on behalf of my fifth book, I salute you.

Ammon rated it Mar 28, 2008
This is the essence of all that is good in Cambridge...that is, activities and attitudes that will never see the light of day...

Jaye rated it Jan 10, 2010
This book was entirely outside my realm of experience. Our son, who is an aspiring climber, brought it home while visiting this Fall and forgot to take it back with him.

The book was written originally in the 1930s, if I recall and was written under a pseudonym because what is described in the book is exactly what is mentioned in the title...young men climbing the walls of the various buildings at Cambridge University.

The book describes the various climbs (buildings and sides thereof) with regard to...more

Elfear rated it Jul 25, 2012
4 stars because it doesn't deserve a 3. While much of the time it really does serve as a sort of guide to climbing Cambridge (and thus too technical and localised for the casual reader, who has never been to London, to appreciate), it also has hilarious anecdotes of pranks and thoughtful musings on fear and so on.

This little book is awesome because it speaks of boyhood (youthful?) adventure, challenge, excitement, beauty, brotherhood, secrecy, and narrow escapes. It's everything one could want...more

Simon rated it Jan 08, 2011
Entertaining account of the exploits of the night climbers of Cambridge, those undergraduate students who, in the interwar years of the 1920s and 1930s, climbed the facades and spires of the historic college buildings. It reads like a guide for climbers, with a lot of detail on the different pitches and routes followed on different buildings, but it's also funny and exciting. It's also full of brilliant photos of some of the breathtaking climbs. By the time I was finished I was looking at the ca...more

Beth marked it as to-read Aug 07, 2008
Note to self: want to read this and "A Tramp Trip: How To See Europe on Fifty Cents a Day", by Lee Meriwether (1886)

Anne rated it Jun 13, 2008
Great book, except for the vertigo.

Tomas rated it Feb 13, 2013
Funny and interesting stories as well as specifics instructions on how to get up different routes. We written.
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