



*R.L. Wilson*

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(Mobile pdf) Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend

## **Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend**

**R.L. Wilson : Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buffalo Bill's Wild West: An American Legend:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very informative and beautifully illustratedBy BattleshipThis was an excellent book. The authors gave good description of the personal background of Cody. There was a thorough examination of the nature of his Wild West shows. The book is full of pictures and bits of memorabilia. The reader gains a great understanding of what the typical show was like and who the main characters were in these productions.The authors provided their own analysis and delved a bit into some of the controversies of how the Native American population was treated and Cody's tendency to engage in some hyperbole. A big highlight of this book was the explanation of the careers of Annie Oakley, Sitting Bull, and Colonel Bogardus.There were a number of excerpts from primary source documents. Many performers explained their experiences in their own words. Newspaper accounts of the day told of the various pigeon shooting contests and rivalries like that between Cody and Doc Carver. The rivalry between Oakley and Lilian Smith was also discussed in detail.The authors take a pro-Cody approach. A more critical account can be found in Louis Warren's book. Warren focuses of personal problems of Cody and the plight of Native Americans. That book was informative, but there was personal bias displayed by the author. In contrast, I liked this book a lot because the authors refrained from much anachronistic criticism of Cody and let the performers speak for themselves.The authors pointed out the great cultural significance of Cody. He was a great promoter and transformed the Wild West show into an international sensation. A big focus of the book was the response of European rulers and aristocrats. For better or for worse, Cody had a big influence on the perception of Western history in America. He was a major figure of his era and had a tremendous impact on American pop culture.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Buffalo Bill's Wild West - The Most Complete Picture Book Ever!By O Yu Yu YoWhen my wife and I visited Cody, Wyoming, which was the fulfillment of a fifty-year quest, I wanted to pitch a tent in the Cody Museum and stay until forced to leave. I could not get enough of Buffalo Bill and his Wild

West Show! The book was on sale in the museum gift shop, but, alas, we had spent every last dollar on the museum fee. After seeing the book for sale on , I was in a better financial condition, so I bought a copy. The book is now on permanent coffee table display. The life of William F. Cody was much too full to chronicle in a single volume, even Cody's own autobiography. But, this book comes closest to fulfilling that task! The beautiful photography and the amazing graphics are expertly interspersed amongst the captivating text, weaving a tapestry of my favorite period of history. For me at least, this book is the next best thing to returning to the long gone days of the Old West!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buffalo Bill's Wild WestBy Ron LWestern history, great photographs, just the ticket for someone with an interest in this time period in US western history. R.L. Wilson does a great job in all of his books.

A panoramic celebration of the colorful characters that made up the Wild West shows, with color and black and white photos throughout.

Extraordinary ! A real extravaganza ! --Lance Frickensmith From the Inside FlapNo theme in history has captured the imagination like the American West, and no presentation of the dramas surpassed the original Wild West shows. In this unparalleled theater, the cast of characters were themselves authentic heroes: Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack Omohundro, Wild Bill Hickok, Captain A. H. Bogardus, Annie Oakley, Doc Carver ("Evil Spirit of the Plains"), Lillian Smith, Captain Jack Crawford ("Poet Scout of the Plains"), Sitting Bull and hordes of Indians, Pawnee Bill, and May Lillie. These pioneer stars and superstars were predecessors to the Western film and television personalities of later times, and to the troupe in the contemporary extravaganza at Disneyland/Paris. Buffalo Bill's Wild West is a panoramic celebration of these colorful characters, who created the image of the West for Americans, and for the world. The book also celebrates the exciting and often flamboyant accoutrements and costumes, which were part and parcel of the stars' public appearance, and honors such characters as William Mathewson, recognized even by Cody himself as the "original Buffalo Bill."The lavish illustrations feature the Michael Del Castello Collection of the American West, with portfolios of treasures from the Buffalo Bill Museum (Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming) and the Autry Museum of Western Heritage (Los Angeles). Cody and his contemporaries made the West come alive to millions through their Wild West show tours of Europe and America. Lavishly illustrated and unsurpassed in its authenticity, Buffalo Bill's Wild West is a collector's item for anyone interested in the most fascinating array of all objects of Americana, and in the uniquely colorful saga of the West.From the original Wild West shows of P. T. Barnum in Hoboken, New Jersey, to the spectacular entertainments of such headliners as Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley, see the arms and accessories of the adventurers who charmed the crowned heads of Europe and brought America's Wild West culture to the world--in the process helping to make Colt, Winchester, Wells Fargo, and the West into American legends. In this unique volume, the authors have produced the most spectacular, lavish, and detailed illustrated tribute ever to Buffalo Bill and his Wild West show-business originals.Buffalo Bill's Wild West is an unmatched chronicle drawn upon decades of research and collecting, augmented with images by master photographers Peter Beard and Douglas Sandberg, and period photo-graphs and archival material from museums and private collections, particularly that of Michael Del Castello--featured at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds, in the summer 1999 loan exhibition "Buffalo Bill's Wild West."In over 225 color plates and 160 black-and-white illustrations, with in-depth text and captions, the colorful arms, posters, photo-graphs, costumes, saddles, accoutrements, stagecoaches, and, for the first time, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Winchester Ammo Wagon, are brought to life. The extraordinary, exquisitely detailed illustrations include more than 50 posters and advertising broadsheets, over 100 rare cabinet card photographs, innumerable historic firearms, advertising art and trade cards, and show-business memorabilia. All the renowned exhibition shooters are presented: Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, Frank Butler, Doc Carver, Johnny Baker, Pawnee Bill, Lillian Smith, Captain A. H. Bogardus and sons, Captain E. E. Stubbs, Curtis Liston, Arizona Joe, and many more--all of them sports and entertainment luminaries of their day.Designed as a companion volume to the bestselling Colt: An American Legend; Winchester: An American Legend; The Peacemakers; Steel Canvas; and Ruger His Guns, this new work covers a fascinating period in history and entertainment that will never be seen again.About the AuthorR. L. Wilson, historical consultant to the Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc. has aided the various Colt museums in Hartford, Connecticut since 1959, and is a freelance consultant and author in the fields of firearms, collecting, and engraving. His career began with intern positions at the Royal Armouries, H.M. Tower of London, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Wadsworth Atheneum, where he was appointed curator of firearms in 1962. He is president of the Armor and Arms Club of New York and has served on advisory boards or as consultant on arms related subjects to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the U.S. Historical Society, the U.S.. Marshals Service, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum. He also serves on the board of directors of the National Firearms Museum in Washington, D.C. and is consultant on American Arms to Christie's, the international auction house.Wilson was born in Minnesota and studied history and art as a scholarship student at Carleton College. A resident of Connecticut, he is the author of more than 25 books and 200 articles on firearms and their embellishment.R. L. Wilson, historical

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