Buffalo Bill and the Wild West

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Book Notices

Buffalo Bill and the Wild West, edited by David H. Katzvie, (Pittsburgh, Penn.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1981. pp. 96, illustrations, photographs, selected bibliography, $11.95 paper.)

This handsome book with several color prints was produced to accompany a travelling exhibit from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. The exhibit was held at the Brooklyn Museum in New York and the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. It was sponsored by Philip Morris and the Seven-Up Company as a means of bringing the flavor of the wild west to urban eastern areas. The book itself contains numerous illustrations and photographs from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center's collections. Accompanying these illustrations is a narrative text written by several notable scholars—Richard Slotkin; Vine Deloria, Jr.; Peter Hassrick; William Judson; Howard Lamar; and Leslie A. Fielder. Each chapter covers various aspects of the collection including the artists, the “Wild West” shows, the Indians, the cowboys, movies, and the legends surrounding Buffalo Bill. A selected bibliography is also helpful. This is a delightful book to read and peruse. It will be useful long after the actual exhibit ends. The publisher can be very proud of this volume.


This second edition updates the earlier 1964 bibliography which was widely used in the public schools. Each chapter is devoted to a specific chronological period and further divided into topical headings. Two added features of this second edition are the list of historical fiction pertaining to each period and a chapter on guides to non-printed materials—films, slides, recordings, maps, games, photographs. One nice feature is that the author has included biographies, memoirs, and primary documents as well as books which have literary excellence. Any teacher of American history from high school through college will find this slim volume of help in guiding students to further reading outside the textbooks.

———MDG
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