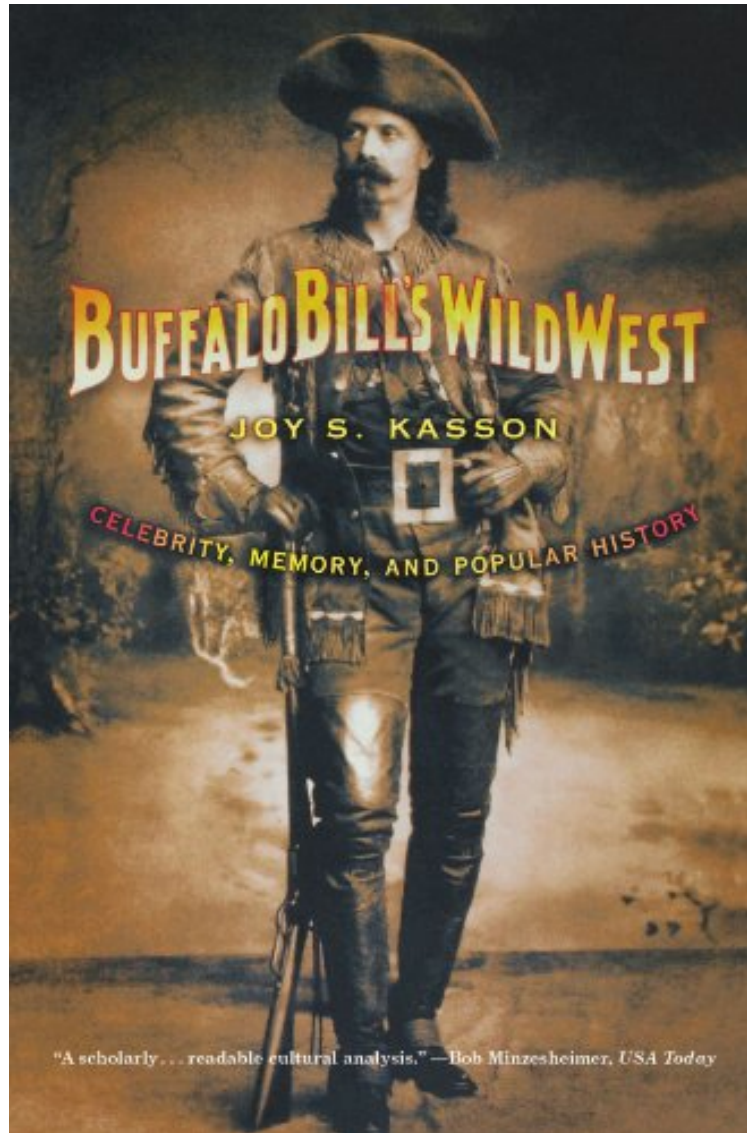


[Read ebook] Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History

## Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History

Joy S. Kasson

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#282240 in Books Joy S Kasson 2001-10-17 2001-10-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 228.60 x .75 x 6.001, 1.08 #File Name: 0809032449336 pages Buffalo Bill s Wild West Celebrity Memory and Popular History | File size: 73.Mb

**Joy S. Kasson : Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. a great book about a great ( flawed) manBy Hakimthere probably isn't a better book out there on cody. and if you're interested in him, a book you nmight not find through usual searches

if "Eiffel's Tower" which covers the 1889 world exposition in Paris, where Thomas Edison, Cody, Whistler, and half the famous French painters of the day were in attendance. Cody, of course, entertained hundreds of thousands of visitors to two shows a day and was the toast of Parisian society...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AwesomeBy TinaEasy fun to read while being full of history. Kasson makes learning about BB engaging interesting. I highly recommend this.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really a great book.By CustomerDefinitely a must-add to any collection you might have about Buffalo Bill. Really a great book.

A fascinating analysis of the first famous American to erase the boundary between real history and entertainmentCanada, and Europe. Crowds cheered as cowboys and Indians--and Annie Oakley!--galloped past on spirited horses, sharpshooters exploded glass balls tossed high in the air, and cavalry troops arrived just in time to save a stagecoach from Indian attack. Vivid posters on billboards everywhere made William Cody, the show's originator and star, a world-renowned figure.Joy S. Kasson's important new book traces Cody's rise from scout to international celebrity, and shows how his image was shaped. Publicity stressed his show's "authenticity" yet audiences thrilled to its melodrama; fact and fiction converged in a performance that instantly became part of the American tradition.But how, precisely, did that come about? How, for example, did Cody use his audience's memories of the Civil War and the Indian wars? He boasted that his show included participants in the recent conflicts it presented theatrically, yet he also claimed it evoked "memories" of America's bygone greatness. Kasson's shrewd, engaging study--richly illustrated--in exploring the disappearing boundary between entertainment and public events in American culture, shows us just how we came to imagine our memories.

From Publishers WeeklyWilliam "Buffalo Bill" Cody was the Wild West adventurer par excellence: he served as an army scout in the Civil War, skirmished with American Indians on the Great Plains and killed enough buffalo to help bring them perilously close to extinction. But if that were all he had done, few would remember him today. Buffalo Bill's real genius, historian Kasson (Marble Queens and Captives), a professor of American studies and English at UNC-Chapel Hill, argues in this insightful study, was in how he capitalized on his own history. As a showman who presented a packaged, sanitized representation of the Wild West, Cody anticipated both the Warholian cult of celebrity and the "real-life" melodramas of modern television, Kasson says. And in the process, he codified the archetype of the Western hero that persists to this day. Bill's performances in his traveling Wild West showsAfeaturing "authentic" scenes of Indian life, re-creations of historical events (including the Battle of Little Big Horn) and the thrilling presence of Buffalo Bill himselfAwere, she argues, a triumph of self-promotion and self-definition. As Buffalo Bill constructed a public identity quite apart from his private life, he magnified his role in history: "In Buffalo Bill's Wild West, historical events seemed to become personal memory, and personal memory was reinterpreted as national memory." This book will, of course, appeal to a curious cross-section of Wild West aficionados and scholars of 19th-century mediaAbut because Kasson is a perceptive and skillful writer, it is also well suited to thoughtful general readers who like good, critical histories. With prose that's never too academic, she delivers a fine analysis of an American folk hero who was at once a shameless self-promoter and an important architect of our national myth of the Wild West. 132 bw illus. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From School Library JournalAdult/High School-A thoroughly researched, entertaining, personal, and human account of William F. Cody. Buffalo Bill was the consummate showman and frontiersman, equally at home hunting buffalo on the prairies of Nebraska or performing privately for Queen Victoria at Earl's Court, London. He was, for generations of Americans, the real West and his Wild West Show was its true story. From his public-relations maneuvers, our images of Native Americans, Western landscapes, cowboy roundups, and sharpshooters like Annie Oakley would be born. Through carefully researched diaries, anecdotes, and other historical documents, Kasson demonstrates how Buffalo Bill created the spectacle and examines how his "subtle interweaving of fact, fiction, hype, and audience desire" fed Americans and Europeans starving for a glimpse of the "real" West. A century later, Americans would denounce the show's stereotypes as they became perpetuated in popular culture. Yet, paradoxically, Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show did preserve some history and memory of the West at the very time it was disappearing to development. The book is enjoyable as both biography and cultural history, and has extensive notes. Liberally illustrated with glossy black-and-white portraits and photographs, as well as reproductions of posters, billboards, and political cartoons, it provides a fascinating study of the man and his time.-Becky Ferrall, Stonewall Jackson High School, Manassas, VACopyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalBest known for his "Wild West" spectacles depicting scenes of the American West, highlighting conflicts between white and Native Americans, William Cody, a.k.a. "Buffalo Bill," was a consummate showman, writes Kasson (history, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). Cody's success, argues Kasson, relied as much upon the desire of late 19th-century Americans for stability in a rapidly industrializing nation that suppressed Native Americans, conquered the West, and engaged in overseas imperialism as it did upon the audience's need for entertainment. With exacting documentation, Kasson shows how deeply Cody was attuned to the public's impression so the American West as he balanced fiction with authenticity. Kasson presents a well-written, readable work that has interesting chapters on public memory and Native American participation in the

"Wild West" shows. Recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those with collection on the American West.-Carles L. Lumpkins, Pennsylvania State Univ., State CollegeCopyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.