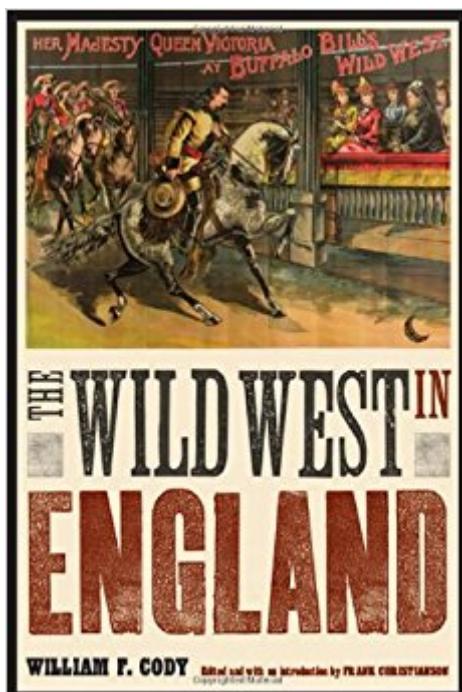


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The Wild West In England (The Papers Of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody)



Synopsis

Army scout, frontiersman, and hero of the American West, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was also a shrewd self-promoter, showman, and entrepreneur. In 1888 he published *The Story of the Wild West*, a collection of biographies of four well-known American frontier figures: Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Kit Carson, and himself. Cody contributed an abridged version of his 1879 autobiography with an addendum titled *The Wild West in England*, now available in this stand-alone annotated edition, including all the illustrations from the original text along with photographs of Cody and promotional materials. Here Cody describes his Wild West exhibition, the show that offered audiences a mythic experience of the American frontier. Focusing on the show's first season of performances in England, Cody includes excerpts of numerous laudatory descriptions of his show from the English press as well as stories of his time spent with British nobility—from private performances for Queen Victoria and the Prince and Princess of Wales to dinners and teas with the elite of London society. He depicts himself as an ambassador of American culture, proclaiming that he and his Wild West show prompted the British to "know more of the mighty nation beyond the Atlantic and . . . to esteem us better than at any time within the limits of modern history."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For many, both at home and abroad, Buffalo Bill Cody was viewed as the quintessential American frontiersman, thanks to his writings and especially his Wild West shows. This work was originally a

companion piece to the abridged version of his 1879 biography and will now be published alone. It covers Cody's experiences and impressions during the first English tour of the show in 1887. Cody appears in this memoir as a fascinating but contradictory personality. At times, he's a supremely practical businessman, who views showmanship as a ticket to greater and greater financial success. Yet he often sees himself as a man on a mission, which is to provide his fellow Anglo-Saxons with a vision of the American advance westward as the culmination of the triumph of civilization over savagery. His account contains several interesting tidbits, particularly regarding the many Native Americans who accompanied him. This will be a useful and enjoyable addition to American West collections. --Jay Freeman

"A must for Cody enthusiasts." •Johnny D. Boggs, Roundup Magazine (Johnny D. Boggs Roundup Magazine)"You get such an intimate look into not only the show itself, but also Buffalo Bill himself by reading his words and I found myself wanting to read more and more to find out what would happen next." •Christopher Lewis, Dad of Divas (Christopher Lewis Dad of Divas 2012-10-15)"A useful and enjoyable addition to American West collections." •Jay Freeman, Booklist (Jay Freeman Booklist 2012-09-15)"Not only does it make Cody's account readily available but, under Christianson's expert oversight, [The Wild West in England] . . . provides a useful introduction, placing Cody and his exhibition in historical and cultural context." •D.B. Wilmeth, Choice (D.B. Wilmeth Choice)"[The Wild West in England offers] readers a fresh look at Cody and his famous self, Buffalo Bill." •J. Thomas Murphy, *Annals of Iowa* (J. Thomas Murphy Annals of Iowa)

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