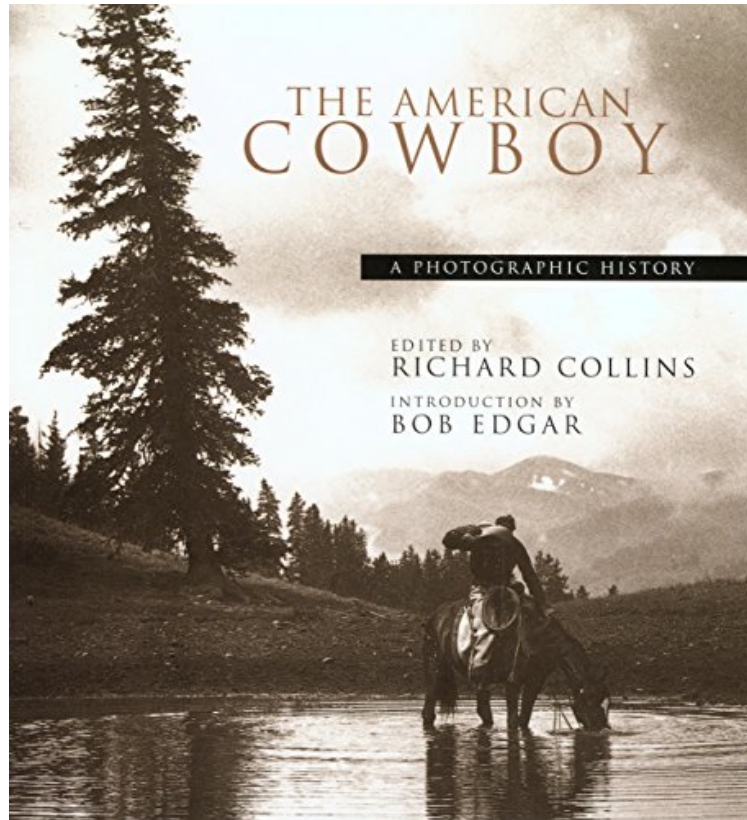


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The American Cowboy: A Photographic History

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From Lyons Press : The American Cowboy: A Photographic History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Cowboy: A Photographic History:

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the two shirts he's wearing, the cuffs of his jeans turned up, two pairs of boots (the more beat-up pair shoved against one corner of the cot), a towel hanging against the log wall behind him, and a copy of Liberty magazine lying open on a seat in the foreground. There are cowboys on horseback performing the remarkable trick of drinking water from their hat brims. (One of these is on the cover.) There are many groups shots of men lined up to face the camera. Two of them from early 1880s Montana show artist and writer Charles Russell. Another shows over 30 men at a cowboy's funeral, hats off, standing around a patch of freshly turned prairie sod, two of them holding shovels. A group of ten trail cowboys from the XIT ranch sit for a portrait shot, two with revolvers drawn in their laps, each of them dressed very differently. There are two studio portraits of individual cowboys from the 1890s, one of them with long, shoulder-length hair, the other a fresh-faced youth, with silk scarf, woolly chaps, leather gloves with wide cuffs, gunbelt, and a monogrammed shirt with big medallion buttons. There are a few shots of cowboying in winter, taken in the 1920s and 30s. In one remarkable two-page spread, a cowboy on his horse watches a long, long line of Herefords moving across a landscape totally whited out by snow. Also interesting are shots of early ranch houses and cow camp cabins, one of them against the eroded rocks of the Missouri Breaks. The opening essay by Bob Edgar, curator of The Museum of the Old West, Cody, Wyoming, gives a general overview of the period, focusing on the cattle drives and talking briefly about the career of one dedicated photographer, Charles Belden. For more of a historical background to go with the photographs, there is Andy Adams' "Log of a Cowboy," "Cowboy Life" by William Savage, Jr., Ramon Adams' book about chuckwagons and the camp cook "Come an' Get It," and Larry McMurtry's novel "Lonesome Dove." For another book of vintage photographs of the Old West, look at "The Early Days in Jackson Hole" by Virginia Huidekoper.

In his introduction to *THE AMERICAN COWBOY*, Bob Edgar speaks of a farsighted fraternity of the photographers such as Belden, Huffman, Koerner, Smith, and Kendrick who recorded images of cattle drives, frontier towns, roundup camps, cowboys on the range, chuck wagons, and horses and cattle. They probably knew that they were recording for posterity both a dramatic and emotive period in history and a changing country, in this case the cattleman's frontier, which existed from the end of the Civil War to the early part of the twentieth century. Through selections from museums and state historical society collections, *THE AMERICAN COWBOY* puts together a stirring series of images that capture the movement of life on the range. Now, as our frontier extends itself into a new millennium with disparate concerns, *THE AMERICAN COWBOY* offers an evocative message of a dream and a forgetting, a chapter forever closed.

From *Library Journal* This collection of more than 100 black-and-white photographs from the American West illustrates the work of cowboys at the turn of the previous century. A brief introductory essay by Bob Edgar, curator of the Museum of the Old West at Old Trail Town in Cody, WY, provides an entertaining, though loosely documented, account of actual cowboys and their experiences with stampedes, harsh weather, and hostile natives. The very solid photo reproductions represent the work of a handful of photographers of the period who specialized in recording cowboy life, including Erwin E. Smith, L.A. Huffman, Charles J. Belden, and F. Jay Haynes. Although no information is given about the editor, his selection of photographs works quite well with the essay. Two major themes covered in this book are the roundup, in which roaming cattle were periodically retrieved according to the brand of the owner, and the trail drive, in which herds of cattle were moved across large stretches of territory. An interesting browse with basic content, this is a marginal purchase for most public libraries. Eric Linderman, East Cleveland P.L., OH Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. These black-and-white photographs capture the ruggedness of the Western lifestyle and the men who lived it. --*Mountain Living Magazine* An entertaining . . . account of actual cowboys and their experiences (with) very solid photo reproductions. His selection of photographs works quite well with the essay. --*Library Journal* This is a wonderful book and a must for anyone who collects cowboy photo books. --*Cowboy Magazine* *THE AMERICAN COWBOY* puts together a stirring series of images that capture the movement of life on the range. That this way of life no longer exists lends additional poignancy. --*Log Home Design*