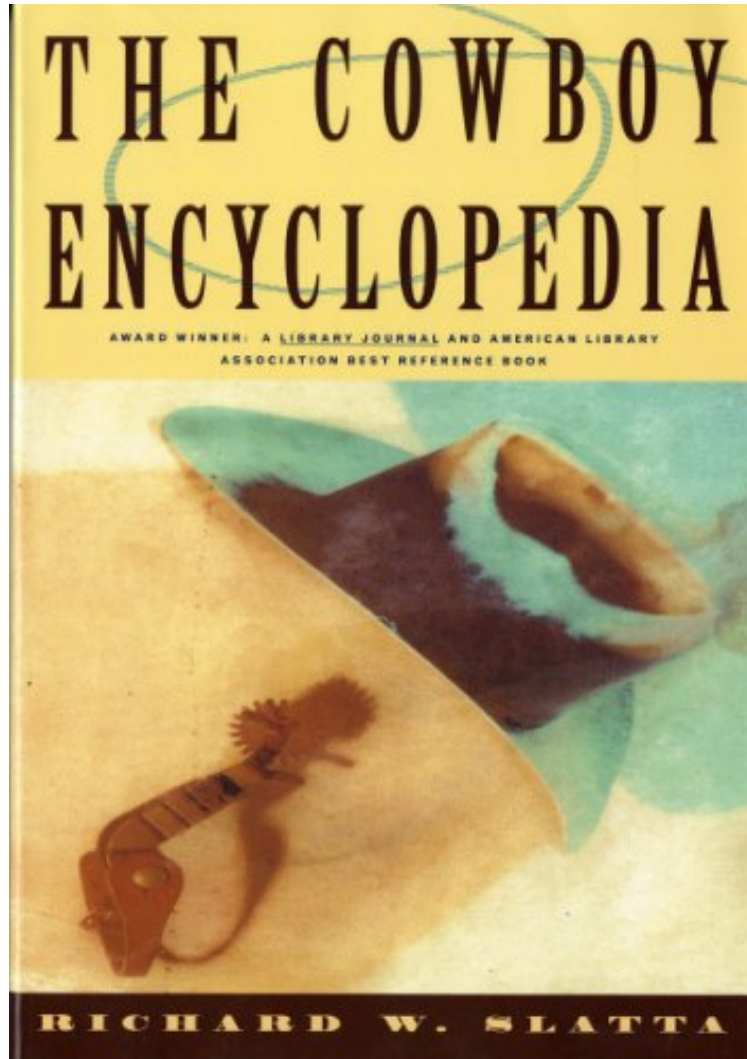


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The Cowboy Encyclopedia

Richard W. Slatta

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Richard W. Slatta : The Cowboy Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cowboy Encyclopedia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Cowboy Research ToolBy AngelaAs a writer of all things cowboy, from music to fiction, this is the best piece of research material I've added to my library. Whatever you are writing, or just want to check the authenticity of some of the things you see in the movies, The Cowboy Encyclopedia is the book to own.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Quite comprehensiveBy K. HughesA well researched and comprehensive book. At first, I was a bit concerned about the information being categorized alphabetically, versus topically, but it is a good system for this type of information. I find myself sitting and reading through a letter of the alphabet at a time. Fun to read, quite interesting, and on double checking the information from

other sources, historically accurate. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lots of fun facts. By grandie Bought this as a gift for my husband who loves Cowboy History and enjoyed looking and reading through this book. Arrived on time and in good condition.

With 450 broad-ranging entries, *The Cowboy Encyclopedia* is an informative, comprehensive, and entertaining reference to the history and culture of cowboys. From Clint Eastwood, cattle drives, Buffalo Bill Cody, and outlaws to John Wayne, rodeos, roundups, and the Cisco Kid, Richard W. Slatta's *The Cowboy Encyclopedia* is a one-of-a-kind reference to the people, places, equipment and dress, historical events, terminology, and cultural imagery surrounding the cowboys of both North and South America. Extensively cross-referenced and expertly researched, *The Cowboy Encyclopedia* is a must for the serious student of cowboy life and Western Americana, as well as an enjoyable treat for the armchair cowboy. In this fascinating volume, myth and reality come together to provide a detailed exploration into how and why the romantic cowboy image came into being. Through numerous topical entries that study the role of cowboys in art, literature, and film, to briefer subject entries focusing on cowboy terminology, readers can take away an insightful and broad perspective of the cowboy culture and its powerful influence over America's vision of the Western frontier. Best Reference Source 1994, *Library Journal* Outstanding Reference Sources 1995, RASD American Library Association

From Booklist This past year brought forth a spate of cowboy reference books, notably a reediting of Ramon Adams' classic work of 1936, *The Cowboy Dictionary* (Perigee, 1993), *Cowboys and the Wild West* [RBB Ja 1 95], and several books of Western slang. Now we have an encyclopedic work, embodying many slang words; famous cowboy names; broad subjects, such as Food or Horses (entries of five or six pages), and narrower topics, such as Holster or Levi's (a column or so). Biographies of cowboys or of movie cowboys usually run to four or five pages. Required accent marks are printed in headings such as *tigo* and *patro* unlike Adams' work, which omits all Spanish accents. There is generous use of see references, though in some cases the reference is to a long article, with no hint as to the precise location of the term referred from. Thus, the entry *Coffee Grinder* says "see *Rope*." The term is to be found in the middle of the fourth column of text: "coffee grinding" is what a novice vaquero does when he wraps his lariat the wrong way around his saddle horn. Many black-and-white illustrations supplement the text. Those copied from tintypes or other early processes, such as one of Billy the Kid, may be excused for poor quality, but a few photos of modern artists or of their work are disappointingly dark. Though primarily concerned with the cowboy of the western U.S., the book does not ignore Argentina or Canada. The article *Gaucha* runs to six pages, with several cartoons of F. Molina Campos, who affectionately lampooned gauchos for several decades with his popular illustrations for commercial calendars. There are several appendixes: a list of film and videotape sources, a list of cowboy museums, an annotated list of periodicals dealing with cowboys, a calendar of "western cultural happenings," a 24-page bibliography, and a detailed index. This work is recommended for any library with an interest in the West, even if it already has one or more dictionaries of cowboy slang. *The Cowboy Encyclopedia* is broader in scope, easy to use, and written in a clear, convincing style. The entries in this source are like potato chips—bet you can't read just one!

About the Author Richard W. Slatta is a professor of history at North Carolina State University and an expert on cowboys, the American frontier, and Latin America.