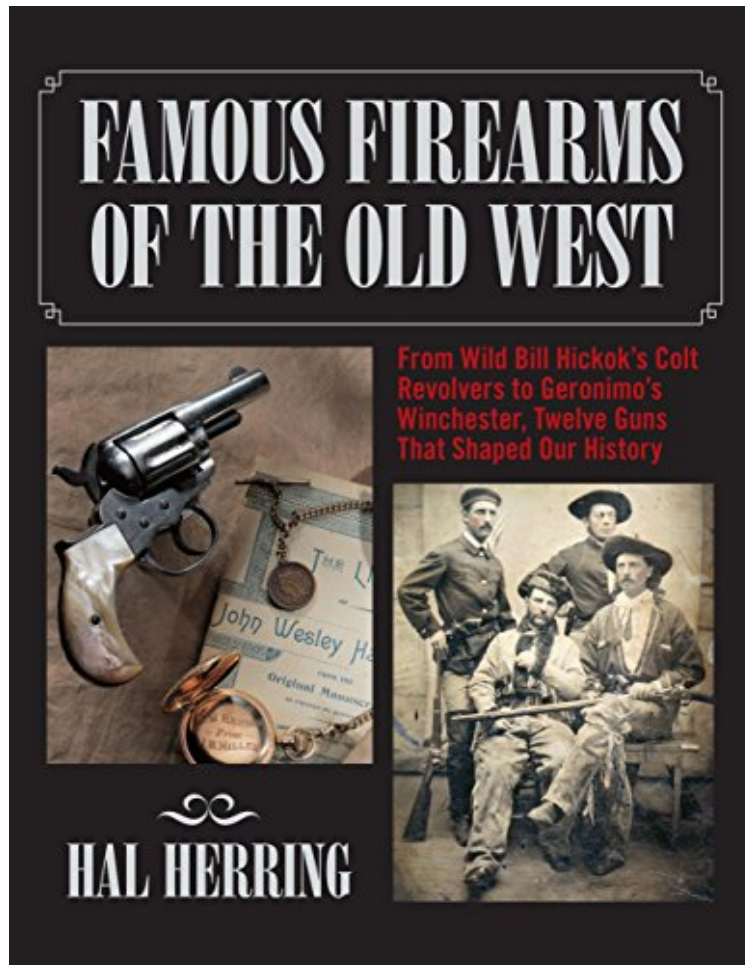


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jimmy SmithermanGreat Infomation0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J-MysteryWas a gift for my Dad. He loves the book3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Nothing new or differentBy eal purchased this book thinking by the title that it

would be giving us the story and history of famous firearms of the old west, specific guns used by specific historical figures, based on the title and book discription. Instead it gives a brief general history of the guns listed with little if no history of specific guns used by each of the historical characters in this book. Then it gave us a brief history of the owners of the guns in question, basically a short review of common information we would already know. If you are just starting to read about western history and historical figures, you will find this book interesting. If you are a long time reader of non fiction western history by authors who give good complete detailed information on their facts, you will be bored with this book.

From the Model 1866 .44-40 Chief Joseph famously surrendered to General Miles (now gathering dust in a museum in Fort Benton) to Buffalo Bill's .50 caliber breechloading needlegun nicknamed Lucretia Borgia, a good portion of the actual guns that were once in the hands of the heroes and villains of the old West are still in existence, scattered around in a dozen different museums across the country. Although there are a host of titles that take advantage of our endless curiosity about western firearms (it's a cottage industry unto itself), there is no single book that traces the natural history of the individual guns. Famous Firearms follows the life stories of twelve of the actual pistols, rifles, and shotguns that were so instrumental in shaping our western mythology, using them as entrees into the lives of the shootists themselves. The end result is a vivid portrait of twelve famous western characters, paired with the guns they used to make themselves famous and infamous.

As Hal Herring says in his Preface, "America was a nation born yelling, and in a cloud of black powder smoke." We have always been addicted to mayhem (albeit from a safe distance), and the most fascinating mayhem of all was that waged in the Old West. This is the story of 12 guns of that time and the famous and infamous people who used them, and if you can start Chapter One and put the book down before you reach at least Chapter Six, see a doctor. Great stuff from someone who is both a historian and a masterful storyteller.