



# Arena Legacy: The Heritage of American Rodeo (The Western Legacies Series)

*Richard C. Rattenbury*

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From its roots in cowboy and vaquero culture to the big-business excitement of today's National Finals competitions, rodeo has embodied the rugged individualism and competitive spirit of the American West. Now the long trajectory of rodeo culture comes fully alive in *Arena Legacy*. Showcasing the unrivaled collections of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, this lavishly illustrated volume is the first to depict rodeo's material and graphic heritage. Richard Rattenbury opens *Arena Legacy* with an engaging and richly illustrated history of rodeo, from its first recorded competition in Colorado in 1869, to its role in county fairs, cattlemen's conventions, and old settlers reunions across the West, to its rise to national prominence between 1920 and 1960.

Following its historical overview, *Arena Legacy* features an extensive pictorial gallery of signature materials. A series of colorful portfolios reveals treasured artifacts from rodeo life, including costumes, trophies, buckles, and riding equipment. Here the reader will discover lavish artistry in leather and silver, flamboyant expression in western dress, and the interpretive work of both fine artists and commercial illustrators. Certain to delight a diverse audience of rodeo aficionados, participants, collectors, and historians, this stunning volume is a fitting tribute to America's truly western sport.

Winner -- 2011 Independent Book Publishers IPPY SILVER AWARD for Coffee Table Book

Finalist -- 2011 Oklahoma Book Awards for Non-Fiction

Finalist -- 2011 Oklahoma Book Awards for Design and Photography

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