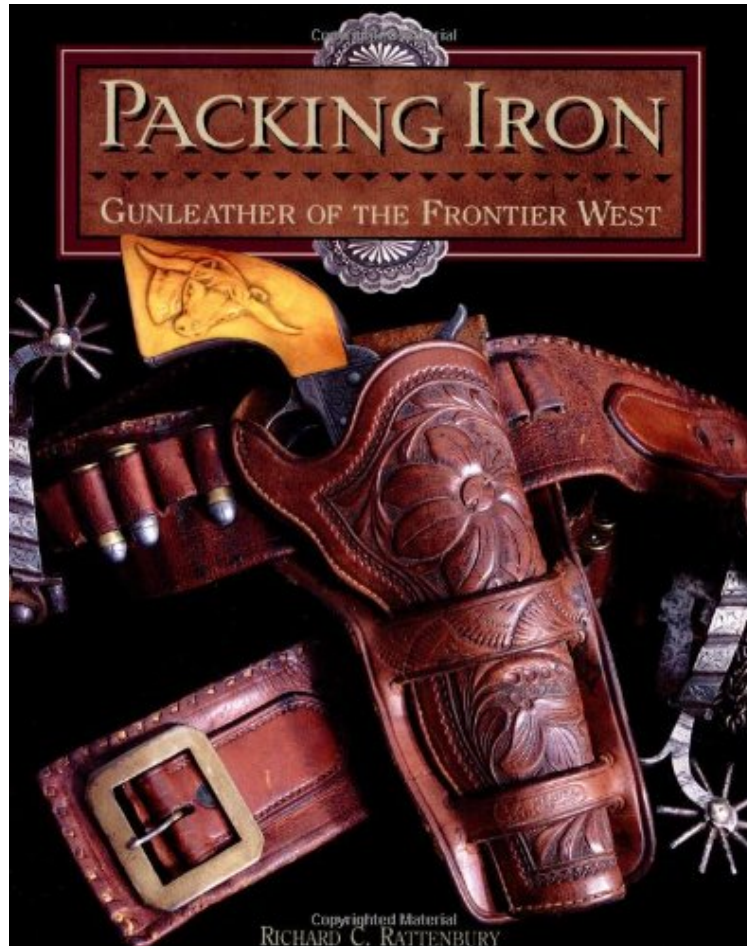


Packing Iron: Gunleather of the Frontier West

Richard C. Rattenbury

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Richard C. Rattenbury : Packing Iron: Gunleather of the Frontier West before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Packing Iron: Gunleather of the Frontier West:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I found to my disappointment that the Hollywood holster which hung down at that ...By K. L. Olson I acquired this book after hearing it's praise and having begun making old west gun leather myself. It has been called the Bible of gun leather history and authenticity. I feel that could be future edition's new title, or more practical, the subtitle. I found to my disappointment that the Hollywood holster which hung down at that "cool" slant, was not historically authentic. But that's why a book such as this is so important; it corrects the mythology of the romantic and gives the truth, even if it is "disappointing". However the Hollywood genre is not omitted or treated with disdain. Rather, the early to mid-hollywood span is objectively covered with credit given to the film industry's creator of the holster which I mentioned above. As for the personal influence on leather work, it directed me to whole new love for the true style of historical accuracy and where they evolved from in the practical purpose

they came. One prominent instance was the debt owed to the culture south of the border. The Mexican cowboys or "Vaceros" (sp) had been doing cowboy work long before the American counterpart. The holster which first accommodated the cartridge belt, was the "Mexican Loop". A beautiful style of leather braiding to trim belts and holsters is the "Mexicana Round Braid". These have been deeply indigredated into my gun leather work. Now, I have gone on for a great length here and overused the personal pronoun but this only due to an enthusiasm for, thus far, the definitive authority of how the western "hogleg" was carried on the cowboy's tool belt. If the subject interests you and you want to read a number of books about it, beware...all other books will be diminished by comparison; "Packing Iron" is the last book, or only book you'll need. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A standard work on the subject By New England Yankee This has rapidly become a favorite book of mine and, judging from the constant references to it from holster makers, has become a widely-used reference source. The quality of the book itself is excellent, with lots of crisp, large pictures and good accompanying text. The "frontier" period covered is pretty wide, really the colonial period into the pre-WW2 era. The emphasis, however, is on the 1800s. The first section of the book mostly covers military gunleather and its transition into civilian forms and usage. The bulk of part two is on California and Mexican Loop pattern holsters of the 1800's and early 20th century, although there is good material on a number of other subjects (all gun-related). The holster photo captions in part two tend to be very repetitious as there are numerous style variations presented, but ultimately don't detract from the pictures themselves or the text. This is not a book to buy if you are interested in costume or accoutrements other than gunleather, and you should pass it by if your primary interest is Western film and TV versions of gunleather - the buscadero, or drop-loop style is barely mentioned. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great addition to my professional library By FoAwesome reference book. I am a holster maker and this book has some great pictures of historically accurate leathers.

Western gunleather is an icon of American frontier lore. Packing Iron celebrates the artistry and innovation of the craftsmen who designed the gun rigs of the old time cowboys, troopers, lawmen, and Hollywood heroes. This unique art form is fully described and richly illustrated with more than 300 exciting color photographs and nearly 100 rare historic images. In the pages of Packing Iron you will discover gunleather produced by historic government arsenals, along with the famed frontier craftsmen like Collins, Meanea, Gallatin, and Heiser.

About the Author Richard C. Rattenbury's enthusiasm for western gunleather was sparked in 1989 while doing research for an exhibit at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City, where he is Curator of History. A long-time student of firearms and western material culture, Rattenbury formerly held curatorial positions with the Winchester Museum at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, and with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas. Over the past 15 years he has authored three exhibition catalogs on firearms history and technology, as well as more than 30 articles and monographs for such publications as Man at Arms, American West, History News, Military Images and Persimmon Hill. Rattenbury resides with his wife, Suzette, in Edmond, Oklahoma.