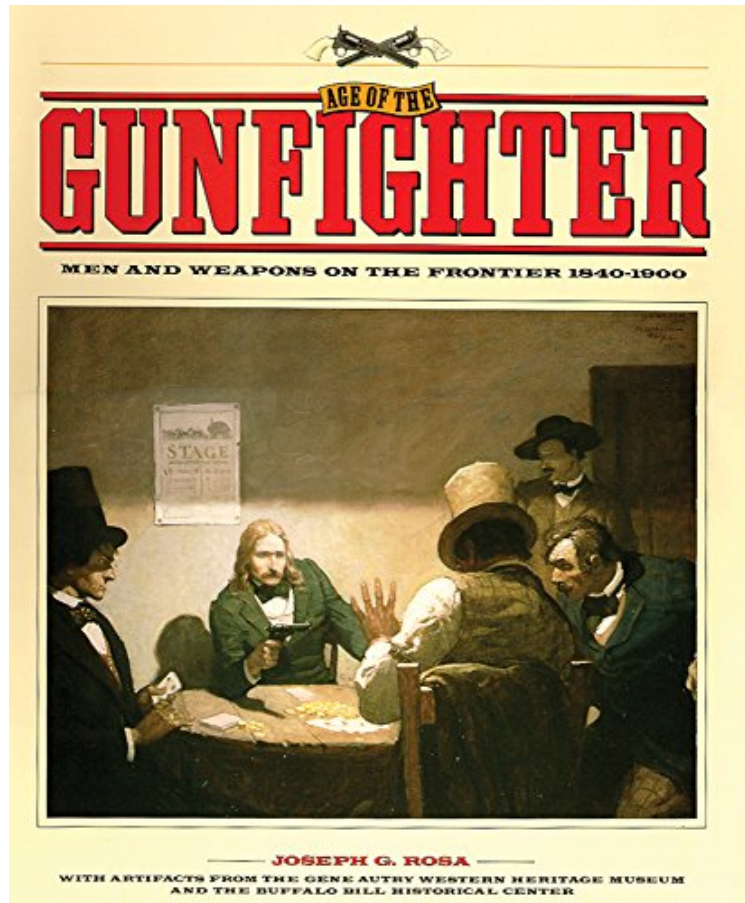


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Age of the Gunfighter: Men and Weapons on the Frontier, 1840-1900

Joseph G. Rosa

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Joseph G. Rosa : Age of the Gunfighter: Men and Weapons on the Frontier, 1840-1900 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Age of the Gunfighter: Men and Weapons on the Frontier, 1840-1900:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A keeper By Dana King Outstanding background of how the law and outlaws grew in the West with fascinating photo displays. A must have for anyone serious about this period in American history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good By E. Nelson This is more of a picture book than a traditional text only history book, and therefore it has less information than, say, a biography on just one famous gunfighter, but it is interesting because it does have the pictures and covers a wide variety of gunfighters. Definitely a good supplement to the other books and biographies out there. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Long on great photographs but short on historical accuracy By J. C. Lampe I received "Age of the Gunfighter"

last night and have only been able to glance through it's pages a few times. On the positive side, my initial impression is that the book is a gorgeous encyclopedia of photographs of famous people, towns and firearms. On the negative side, my cursory glances through the book have shown some significant historical errors. The only sub-section of the book I have any real knowledge about is the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid. The book contains some glaring errors in this section. In a photo, the author mixes up the identities of John Poe and James Brent and states that Brent accompanied Poe and Pat Garrett to Fort Sumner when in fact, it was Tip McKinney who accompanied them, not James Brent. The author correctly identifies a photo of Bob Beckwith but states that he was a follower of Billy the Kid who died when he and McSween tried to escape McSween's burning house. The fact is that Beckwith was a member of the Murphy-Dolan faction and fighting on the opposite side of Billy and McSween that night. Billy and several "Regulators" had already escaped when Beckwith called for McSween's surrender. Something went wrong and after the smoke cleared from the resulting shootout, both McSween and Beckwith were dead. Finally, the author states that Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid with a Colt Single-Action .45 when Garrett actually used a Colt Single-Action .44. I haven't had a chance to read much of the author's narrative so possibly these errors are due to someone else editing the descriptions of the photographs. For the photos alone, this book is a definite must-have for the Frontier enthusiast and based on this alone should rate the book five stars. However, the questionable historical accuracy of some of it's narrative requires me to downgrade my rating to four stars.

Based upon contemporary and informed opinion, *Age of the Gunfighter* tells of a tempestuous time and many a notorious gunfighter. Few of those who achieved fame and a reputation lived into old age. Ed Masterson, Tom Smith, and Bill Tilghman, for example, died in the line of duty. Others, like Wild Bill Hickok, Jesse James, and Billy the Kid, were murdered because of their reputations, at the hands of the law or for personal or financial gain. And the few who survived into old age in the twentieth century, such as Wyatt Earp, were men out of place and time, steeped in nostalgia for an era gone but immortalized as the age of the gunfighter.

From the Back Cover Joseph G. Rosa's vivid and expertly written tale of this violent time combines contemporary accounts with meticulous historical research and an unjaundiced appraisal of the facts. Telling the story of every major gunfighter, peace officer, and outlaw of the West, Rosa places them within the context of a violent frontier and the coming of law and order. Complementing the text are twenty-seven outstanding color spreads featuring firearms from the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum (Los Angeles) and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (Cody). Many of the spreads contain guns owned and used by such well-known individuals as Pat Garrett, Billy the Kid, Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok, John Wesley Hardin, Frank James, and Harvey Logan. About the Author Joseph G. Rosa, (1932–2015), is the author of the definitive biography of Wild Bill Hickok, *They Called Him Wild Bill: The Life and Adventures of James Butler Hickok*, as well as *The Gunfighter: Man or Myth?* And (with Waldo E. Koop) *Rowdy Joe Lowe: Gambler with a Gun*, all published by the University of Oklahoma Press.