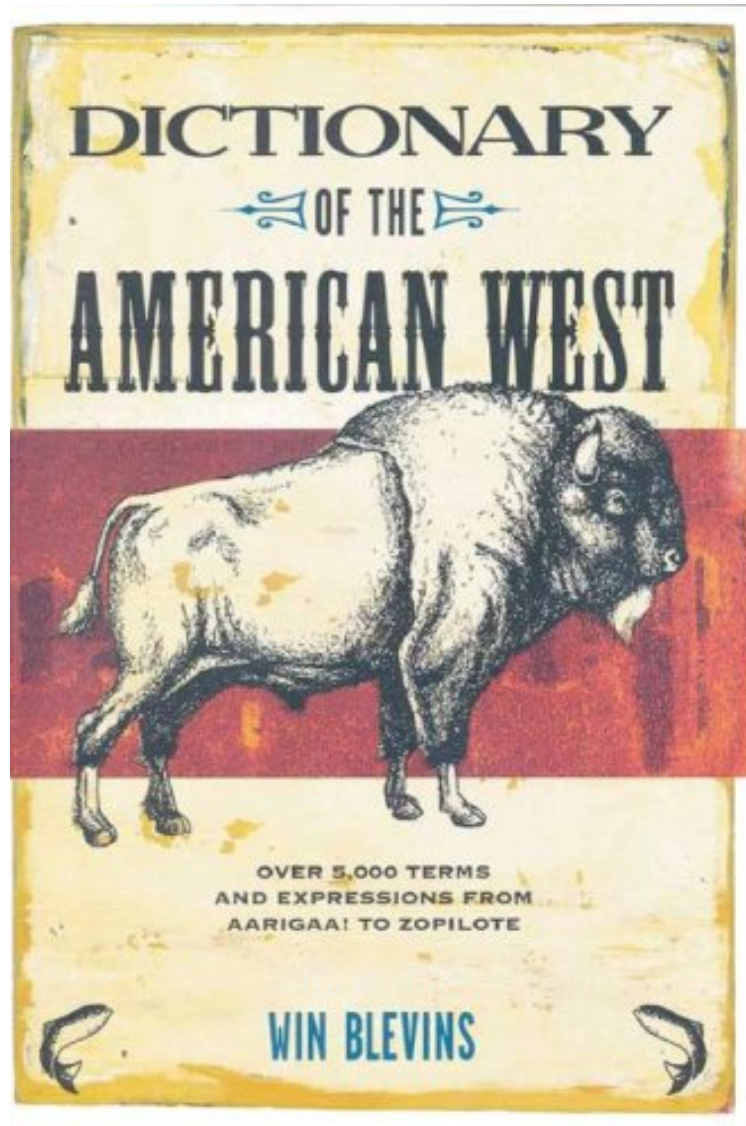


Dictionary of the American West

Winfred Blevins

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Winfred Blevins : Dictionary of the American West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dictionary of the American West:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My Go-To Western Word BookBy Velyrhordel rely on this book when I'm writing my historical fiction, It's chock full of great terms and I just like browsing through the thing looking for a great word or phrase for my characters to use.This a great reference book for anyone writing about the Old West!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's a fantastic piece of workBy John HamiltonI just

downloaded the Kindle version of this book. It's a fantastic piece of work, very comprehensive, with pronunciation guides and origins and combinations. Even the introduction is fascinating, with updated usage recommendations on vexing words such as squaw, Anasazi, and Indian/Native American. An excellent resource for Western writers, or anybody wishing to know more about the unique lexicon of the American West. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A lot of Fun To Read By Karen Mercury OK, this book is a lot of fun to plain sit down and read the whole way through. His recent addition of Alaska as "The West" is a bit weird, and my only other complaint would be that once in awhile he'll add something that seems arbitrary, like some surfing term. There are maybe only 5 surfing terms in the whole book--why not all 100 of them, as they *are* arguably "Westernisms"? I guess when I think "The West" I think "The Old West," as in, prior to 1900. Also for research purposes he usu. doesn't mention the year a word was coined, and he does rely a lot on novelists, so if you plan to use this book for actual historical research, you'll need to double-source every term you might want to use. Other than that, it's plain old fun to read...He tells a lot of stories in the definitions and is obviously having a lot of fun.

Win Blevins has long since won his place among the Wests very best. Tony Hillerman For the first time, The 'Dictionary of the American West' includes all the voices of America's richly woven history of the West: Women, Mormons, Hispanics, Blacks, French-Canadians, mountain men, half-bloods, immigrants, cowboys, and missionaries--to show how western speech is actually a riotous mix of cultures and languages. Included are Spanish, Indian Pidgin English, and Chinook trade jargon. That's why words like 'tortilla', 'simpatico', 'bourgeois' and 'muckamuck' have become as much a part of American parlance as dogie, salty dog, smart-aleck, and grub. Among the thousands of carefully researched definitions, the reader will find the meaning of 'buck nun' to 'ride circle;' as well as American Indian words such as 'sun dance', 'kachina' 'medicine pipe'. This book is essential for anyone with an interest in the American West, in its history, facts fables, idioms mores. Highly informative and endlessly entertaining, and accompanied by black-and-white illustrations, the Dictionary of the American West explains more than 5,000 terms and expressions in passages that pack a crossbuck saddle's worth of American frontier history and wit. Win Blevins is an American author of historical fiction, narrative non-fiction, historical fantasy, and non-fiction books, as well as short stories, novellas, articles, reviews, and screenplays. He has written many books about the western mountain trappers, and is known for his "mastery of western lore. His notable works include Stone Song, So Wild a Dream, and Dictionary of the American West. According to WorldCat, the Dictionary of the American West is held in 728 libraries. Blevins has won numerous awards, including being named winner of the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement in writing literature of the West, being selected for the Western Writers Hall of Fame, being twice named 'Writer of the Year' by Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers, and winning two Spur Awards for Best Novel of the West.

From School Library Journal YA-A lively collection of 5,000 Western terms and expressions from "a-coming and a-going" to Zuni. Based on earlier dictionaries of the area but enhanced by the inclusion of such groups as "women, Indians, Mormons, Hispanics, blacks, French Canadians..." the volume contains mostly short definitions of a few lines, but some are more lengthy and include quotes and anecdotes as well as pronunciation guides and cross references. This will be useful for readers of Westerns and for regional and local history collections. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Western novelist Blevins (The Misadventures of Silk and Shakespeare , LJ 10/1585) has developed this useful and interesting addition to the genre of dictionaries of regionalisms for lay readers. Her book therefore lacks the scholarly approach of Dictionary of American Regional English (LJ 11/1/85) and Reader's Encyclopedia of the American West (o.p.). However, for those who don't know the difference between aguardiente and leopard sweat, this book is informative and fun. It is more encompassing than similar works, such as Western Words: A Dictionary of the American West and Cowboy Limbo (both o.p.), both by Ramon Adams; or Peter Watts's A Dictionary of the Old West (o.p.). Blevins's work incorporates the language of various Western professions, such as logging and mining, as well as ethnic groups, such as Mormons and Native Americans. Geographically, it ranges from the Klondike to the Southwest. In addition, the words included date from the history of the West to modern bureaucratic phraseology, with cross references, sources, and a pronunciation guide. Recommended for both reference and general entertainment collections. --Daniel Liestman, Seattle Pacific Univ. Lib. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This revised edition (the first was published in 1993) now includes more words from Alaska and the Pacific Coast states as well as new Indian terms. Some 250 entries are new, and numerous others have been rewritten. RBBCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved