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Review of From Cody to the World: The First Seventy~five Years of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association

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orative traces the growth of the center from its log cabin origins in 1917 to its present status as one of the finest and most important institutions in the United States devoted to the American West.

Author Richard A. Bartlett, professor emeritus at Florida State University, is to be commended for going beyond the usual self-congratulatory style and tone of many anniversary histories in writing this volume. In tracing the historical development of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, Bartlett has produced an interesting case study because what has been accomplished at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center probably could not be duplicated anywhere else.

First organized in 1917 after the state of Wyoming appropriated \$5000 to erect a permanent memorial statue in honor of the late William F. Cody who had owned a nearby ranch, the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association developed a complex that by 1992 included the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Plains Indian Museum, the Buffalo Bill Museum, and the Cody Firearms Museum. A heroic figure (Buffalo Bill Cody), the mystique of the old west (Cody, Wyoming), and an unparalleled cast of characters all came together at the right time and place. The key figure was Buffalo Bill's niece, Mary Jester Allen, who brought into reality the original commemorative statue of Buffalo Bill and who for thirty-three years, until her death in 1960 at age eighty-five, maintained the original log cabin museum through the critical decades of the Great Depression and World War II. But Allen was also a person of great vision who realized that if her dream of a suitable memorial to her uncle were to be achieved, it would have to include substantial support from influential and wealthy people beyond Cody itself. Through determination and the sheer force of her personality, Allen involved in the Cody adventure such others as Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, sculptor of the original commemorative statue commissioned by the State of Wyoming; Ernest J. Goppert, Jr., a local attorney and long-time president of the Buffalo Bill

From Cody to the World: The First Seventy-five Years of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association. By Richard A. Bartlett. Cody: The Buffalo Bill Historical Center, 1992. Foreword, bibliography, index. viii + 231 pp. \$39.95.

From Cody to the World . . . is an interesting little volume about a remarkable place, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center at Cody, Wyoming. Produced in celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association (the "parent" organization of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center), this commem-

Memorial Association Board of Trustees; Harold McCracken, the first director of the Whitney Gallery of Western Art; William Robertson Coe, a New York insurance broker and major contributor; Irving H. Larson, an early area dude rancher whose guest lists read like social registers; Jack Kriendler, owner of New York's 21 Club; Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, Gertrude's son; and Peter Hassick, the present director of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Published in a limited edition of 1250 copies, plus 250 leather bound volumes, *From Cody*

to the World . . . is a very readable account that is enhanced by numerous illustrations, a good bibliography, and an adequate, if not thorough, index. It is a book that can be enjoyed equally by those already familiar with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and those who have never traveled to Cody, Wyoming. Once they have read this book, however, they will probably want to make the trip.

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