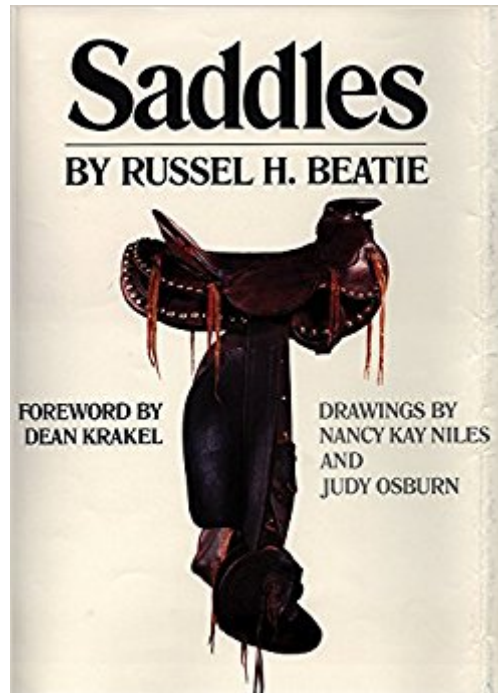




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Saddles



Synopsis

Saddles is the first complete work on the subject to appear in print. It is an exhaustive survey, in words and more than eight hundred illustrations, of the one indispensable item of horse equipment, whose history began about the time the horse was domesticated, in the dim mists of unrecorded time. More than history, Saddles also explains the construction of the basic saddle, describes the different saddle types, and explains how they have been altered to meet the changing needs of riders down through the centuries. Those who work with horses for pleasure or profit, from novices looking for suggestions on buying saddles to professionals who want to round out their knowledge, will find this book useful, absorbing, and a delight to the eye. It covers virtually every aspect of saddlery, saddle measurement, selection, and care, plus tips from a knowledgeable horseman on the intricacies of fitting horse, rider, and saddle into a dynamic whole. The aesthetics of the craft are also presented in detail: the uniquely American leatherwork of the show saddle, the elaborate use of silver (now undergoing a revival), the adoption by American saddlemakers of useful accessories from other lands (the tapadero from Mexico, for example). The construction of the saddle is described and illustrated in careful detail, along with descriptions of the many accessories of early and modern times. The section on famous saddles shows now-priceless gem-studded examples of the saddlemaker's skill. The first compilation of American saddlemakers is given in the appendix. A glossary of saddle terms and a thoroughly researched bibliography conclude the book. In undertaking the enormous task of compiling this work, one of the author's underlying purposes has been to enhance interest in the few surviving old saddles as collectors' items and as artifacts of American history. For, as he says, "Much of that history was made on horseback."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The title of this book is less than adequate for so fine a work as Russel H. Beatie has put together. It is more accurate to describe this work as a "Natural History Of Saddles"... from their first primitive inceptions until modern times. Every improvement along the way is detailed, and every detail is presented in an understandable and pleasurable way. If you collect saddles, ride them for work or pleasure, fix them, photograph them, or just plain enjoy seeing them, this book will be a fine addition to your collection. Beatie has excellent illustrations and photographs... as well as text to match. I found only a few small differences in terminology and opinion than what I know of saddles, and they might be regional differences rather than actual error on the authors or my part. The book starts slow in the earliest of times, when saddles did not exist at all. If that is not important to you, skip ahead a few chapters and begin anywhere you want to in this chronological journey. There is something here for everyone to see, learn, and enjoy. This is not a "how to" book about building saddles, although it may in fact help you to build a better one should you attempt to; It is a true "Natural History" of saddles that will warm your heart and educate you at the same time. Enjoy.

My objective in purchasing this book was to learn about western saddles so that when I shopped for one I would be educated and know what to look for in a quality saddle, and what to avoid. This book was excellent for that. It is older, so the information isn't current to 2013 but a well made saddle is still a well made saddle and not much has changed in that respect. It is an easy read, and I really enjoyed the historical section on the evolution and design of the saddle from when horses were first domesticated up until present day (well present day at the time the book was published) I am definitely more educated on western saddles after reading this book. I would recommend it to anyone who wanted to expand their knowledge in that regard. I give it 4 stars as I wish the pictures were in color.

This book contains a lot of information. I was looking for a specific saddle which unfortunately I didn't find any information about in the text. There are several photos which seem to have a vague description and not the information I was looking for. I found some of the information in this book to be a little disunited. There is no doubt the author knows the subject, and there is certainly a lot of

good and relevant information within the pages. I need a book like this about english saddles as well. Any suggestions??

Excellent coffee table book or encyclopedia for the western saddle enthusiast. Many photos and considerable history shared. Whether you're a saddle maker, cowboy, collector, or hobbyist, this book has some sort of gem in it for you.

Best Saddle Book Ever, Two Thumbs Up

I found this book in my university library and enjoyed it so much I wanted my own copy. This was a collector's edition with dust jacket. The book is in excellent condition.

I am interested in learning how to build and repair saddles so I wanted to know as much as I could about the history of saddles. This book as been a very enjoyable read.

very informative book good pictures if you are into studying saddles and old west things makes you watch the old tv shows better

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