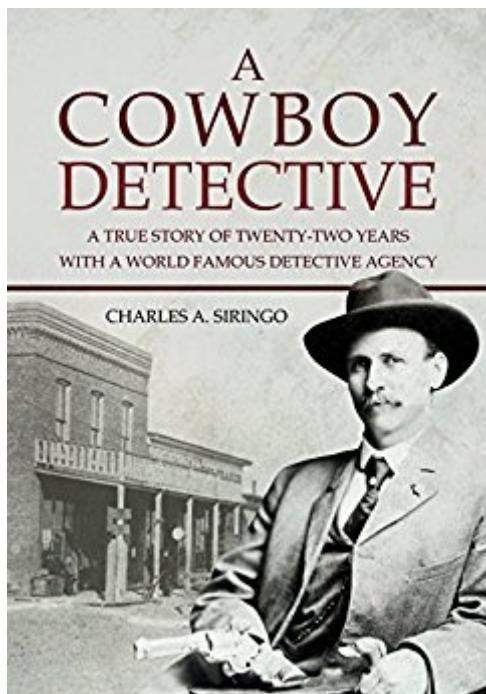


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A Cowboy Detective: A True Story Of Twenty-Two Years With A World Famous Detective Agency



Synopsis

From arresting anarchists in Chicago to chasing down Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch gang, Charles Siringo spent twenty-two years of service fighting crimes across America. Having started out as a full-fledged cowboy when only eleven years old, Siringo was most comfortable on horseback in the great expanse of the American West, but his missions often led him further afield to the Canada and Mexico. During his career as a detective Siringo faced some of the most dangerous men and women of the late-nineteenth century and only survived through a combination of bravery, skill and luck. Siringo was most successful when he went undercover into the criminal underworld and uncovered plans for illegal activity. "Among the enduring western master storytellers is Charlie Siringo, cowboy, detective, author, whose career and writings still live in the psyche of millions of westerners today." Howard Roberts Lamar Unfortunately for Siringo the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, who he had been working for, were unhappy with the publication of the book and so a court order forced him to change their name to the "Dickenson Detective Agency" and for Tom Horn to be changed to "Tim Corn." Yet, despite this, *A Cowboy Detective* remains a fascinating work. "His cowboys and gunmen were not of Hollywood and folklore. He was an honest reporter." J. Frank Dobie Charles Siringo was an American detective, lawman and author. His first book *A Texas Cowboy; or, Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony* was published in 1885, establishing his reputation as a writer. The year later, he moved to Chicago and joined the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, which he remained with for the next twenty-two years. *A Cowboy Detective* was first published in 1912. After becoming a New Mexico Ranger for a short period Siringo died in 1928.

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Customer Reviews

Charlie was clearly a character with a treasure trove of stories to tell. Additional background information about the good guys - and the bad guys - would be helpful but then again this was written before the age of Google, computerized arrest records, etc. Gives a solid description of life in the Old West...to include West Virginia!

I've read a lot of Western history, and the Pinkerton's are often mentioned, but you never hear about what life was like for a Pinkerton detective. I was interested in all the stories about his undercover cases. Since everyone is the hero of his own story, it would be easy for Siringo to embellish the account. However, he seems to tell of his failures and triumphs with equal relish. I enjoyed his self effacing humor, and for me, it added to his credibility. Sometimes it was hard to follow nineteenth century idiom, but I really enjoyed the book.

This appears to be a book recorded exactly as dictated by the author. As literature-3 stars-but as history-4 stars. Not very smooth, a bit choppy, and repetitive for casual reading. If you are seeking an accurate first hand account of the adventures of a private detective in the mid to late 1800's with glimpses into common life then this is a good source. Mr. Siringo is usually absent from any home life. He is assigned by the agency to find cattle rustlers, train robbers and to insert himself into mining labor disputes where outsiders are usually beaten or killed if discovered. His social skills are apparently quite good since he is almost always accepted by the group.

Siringo certainly tells an interesting story. Whether it's true or not is another matter. At this late date, there's no way to verify most of it.

Siringo certainly led an interesting life , rivaling that of Louis L Amour, who was a far better yarn spinner. This is a loose and somewhat confusing collection of historical anecdotes in an early 20th Century style and jargon (some of it then-accepted racism). It does allow one a window into the time commonly (wrongly) understood only through the eyes of fiction, interpreted by those who were not even born, much less even there. This is a string of recollections, and thus has no plot of which to speak. This is the stuff of which a multitude of dime novels were made.

Interesting history. It makes you realize that today is not as crazy as it seems, humans are nutty in all time periods. Political murders, riots and mayhem has been with us for a while and its not likely to stop. The best history is by the people who lived it.

This man lead an interesting life and his writing depicts the way things were in his day. Well worth a read if you enjoy the old west.

Allowing for the fact that this was written over 100 years ago, the story lines are quite boring and I struggled to read a chapter at a time. The only thing that kept me going was the fact that quite a few well known outlaws are mentioned along the way.

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