Abramicheva E.Y.
A Cowboy, one of America's greatest fascinations

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(Russia, Nizhniy Tagil)

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Аннотация

Цель исследования – раскрыть феномен американского ковбоя. Лихие парни, стреляющие из кольтов направо и налево – такой экраный образ ковбоя привили нам с детства. Но реальная картина выглядит иначе. В статье раскрываются причины появления ковбоев, описываются ковбойские будни, их быт, основные занятия, статья знакомит с самым известным ковбоем Америки Буффало Биллом, а также, спортивным состязанием, которое называется родео. Научная новизна работы состоит в исследовании документальных фильмов и ковбойского фольклора. В результате определён феномен американского ковбоя.

Ключевые слова: феномен, ковбой, Дикий Запад, скот, ранчо, родео, вестерн

Abstract

The purpose of the this article is to reveal the phenomenon of the American cowboy. Dashing guys shooting colts right and left – this screen image of a cowboy instilled in us from childhood. But the real picture looks different. The article reveals the reasons for the appearance of cowboys, describes the cowboy everyday life, their main activities, the article introduces the most famous cowboy in America, Buffalo Bill, as well as a sports competition called Rodeo. The scientific novelty of the work consists in the study of documentaries and cowboy folklore. As a result, the phenomenon of the American cowboy is defined.

Keywords: phenomenon, cowboy, Wild West, cattle, ranch, rodeo, western

Cowboy is a person who helps take care of a large herd of cattle for a ranch owner. In the US, cowboys won fame in the days of the Western frontier. Their reputation for bravely facing danger and hardship made them heroes to many Americans. Exciting tales of cowboy life, sad cowboy songs, and colorful cowboy language have all become part of American folklore. Many of the most popular novels, motion pictures, and television shows have been about cowboys. The **purpose** of this work is to reveal the phenomenon of the American cowboy. The main **research methods** are not only the study of literature and other sources of information and text analysis, but also study of documentaries and cowboy folklore.

The appearance of cowboys in their "classic" form is directly related to the development of the Wild West. At the beginning of the XIX century people in search of a better life began to move to the Great plains. Settlers-pioneers built new settlements and started economic activities. Soon there were several main routes connecting the West and East of the continent. The era of the Wild West was beginning. At that time in North America there was a fairly developed animal husbandry, but in the middle of the XIX century a new stage of its development began. The great plains could be used as giant grazing grounds for livestock. The climate and flora of the prairies allowed cattle to be kept in open pastures all year round. The specifics of cow grazing in this area led to the emergence of the profession of horse herdsman.

Frontiersmen who had moved to the West became the first cowboys. Probably nearly a fourth of all cowboys were blacks, and another fourth were Mexicans. Many of the black cowboys moved to the Western frontier after the Civil War. Others had been slaves on Texas ranches before the war. Not all the cowboys are men or boys; some are women. Throughout the West there are cowgirls who work on the range and take part in cattle drives. Many are the wives and daughters of ranch owners.

American cowboys copied much of the equipment used by Mexican cowboys, who are called vaqueros. The big sombrero worn by vaqueros became an American cowboy hat. La reta, the rope in Spanish, became the lariat used by cowboys to rope cattle. One end of the lariat was knotted to form a small eye, called a honda. The other end of the rope slipped through the honda to form a large, adjustable loop. A cowboy kept a coiled lariat hanging from his saddle. The saddle used by cowboys was adapted from that of the vaqueros. It had a large horn in front, to which the cowboy attached his lariat when roping cattle. The gun, in most cases, was a revolver with six chambers known as six-shooter.

Fully outfitted for work on the range, a cowboy was covered from head to foot in a protective costume that identified him as distinctly as a knight's armor identified its owner. He normally wore long jeans unless it was too hot. His shirt was typically collarless and made of cotton or flannel. His woolen pants were sometimes fortified with buckskin sewn over the seat and down the inner thighs to keep them from fraying where they rubbed against the saddle. He rarely used suspenders, since they chafed him and just as rarely wore a belt unless, as in later days, he was a rodeo rider hankering to show off a fancy belt buckle won in the arena. As a practical measure his pants had to stay up by themselves and thus were bought to fit tight around the waist. Because it was inconvenient to carry anything in pants pockets while riding, the cowboy usually had on a vest with deep pockets where he kept his Bull Durham tobacco, and perhaps a tally book for keeping count of the cattle.

Special attention should be paid to the code of cowboys. Here are some rules from it.

1. When passing someone on the road, say Hello.
2. Approaching someone from behind, loudly say Hello to him before you will be in the range of a pistol shot.
3. Don't wave to a person on a horse. This can scare the horse, and the person will think that you are an idiot (the correct greeting is a nod).
4. If you pass someone on the road, don't look back. This indicates a lack of trust in the person.
5. Riding another person's horse without their permission is like making love to their wife. Don't even touch someone else's horse.
6. Never shoot an unarmed man. Never shoot a woman at all.
7. The Cowboy is pleasant to talk to, even if he is not in the spirit. Only weak people complain, and cowboys hate weak people.
8. Always be brave. Cowards are not tolerated in any form.
9. A cowboy always helps someone in need, even if it's a stranger or an enemy.

A cowboy's life was filled with hard work, danger and loneliness. Tending cattle was hard because the animals got into trouble so often. Each day, a cowboy faced the risk of broken bones, crippling accidents, and even death. Very few ranches were near a town with a doctor, and so cowboys doctored themselves most of the time. A kick from a horse could kill a cowboy. And a mean horse might kill a rider by racing under a low branch. A cowboy could be trampled to death in a stampede. In general, cowboys led a lonely life. Two events broke the monotony of a cowboy's life on the ranch – the roundup and the trail drive. The roundup took place each spring and fall. A roundup was necessary to identify and brand newborn calves. A calf received the brand of its mother. Each ranch had its own brand, which it placed in a certain position on all its cattle. The trail drive was a major event in a cowboy's life. A trail drive usually lasted about two or three months and covered as much as 1.000 miles (1.600 km). During the long drive, cowboys moved from two thousand to three thousand cattle to a railroad station for shipment to Eastern markets. They worked long days and sometimes through part of the night. At the end of the trail drive, the cowboys arrived in a cow town, where the cattle were sold and loaded on a train.

Life on the American frontier was hard and many of the frontier towns where the cowboys let off steam were rough, often wild places. These towns were home to shopkeepers and ordinary people trying to build new lives for themselves in a still untamed land. But they were also filled with gamblers, swindlers and outlaws. Most cowboys didn't come face-to-face with the outlaws. Once the cowboys had spent their time in town after the trail drive, they made their way back to the ranch, where the cycle of raising the cattle, rounding them up and driving them to market was repeated. But the West was filled with cattle thieves who tried to rob ranch owners of their animals, so cowboys occasionally had bloody encounters with cattle thieves. Some cowboy brigades did not disdain stealing cattle from colleagues to replenish their entrusted herds or to sell them to third parties. The so-called wars in Lincoln and Johnson counties are well known. Disputes over the division of territories and the sale of livestock led to long-term conflicts and the death of several dozen people.

It is believed that the classic era of cowboys lasted only two decades. Already in the eighties, the situation in the livestock market has changed significantly, and along with it, the work of shepherds has changed. The reason for this was new inventions and infrastructure development.

The first blow to the cowboys was the invention of barbed wire and the division of pastures. Now the cows grazed only in the fenced area and did not stray. Accordingly, the need for shepherds to gather them into a herd has been reduced.

The second factor was the development of infrastructure. The railroads had reached Texas, and their stations were now not too far from the pastures. The state also opened its own processing plants that could purchase local livestock.

Grazing has become easier, and railroads have reduced the length of runs. Along with this, the need for horse herders has also decreased. With the nineteenth century, the age of the cowboys was coming to an end. However, this profession has not completely disappeared. Small numbers of its representatives continued to work until the forties of the XX century. Then there was a new restructuring of the industry, and the appearance of the breeder finally changed. Cowboys on horseback still exist in the United States, but are now a real curiosity.

Buffalo Bill, whose real name is William Cody, is the nation's most famous cowboy. His show includes hundreds of cowboys, cowgirls and Indians. It features plays in which cowboys leap from their horses to halt runaway stage coaches, foil bank robbers and battle Indians to the death. At the beginning of the XX century, the newly created cinema was added to literature and diverse shows. The first films-westerns appear, of course, of the adventure genre.

The sport of rodeo was created more than a century ago when a handful of cowboys decided to see just who was the best bronc rider or steer roper. Today's the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association athlete still ropes and rides like his 19th century counterpart, but

now many cowboys travel to more than 100 rodeos each year and are able to make a living competing on the circuit. In fact, PRCA cowboys compete for shares of nearly 30 million dollars and the sport continues to grow in prize money and popularity.

The real cowboys who existed in the second half of the century before last were simple hard-working shepherds. For a small fee and a roof over their heads, they watched the herds, drove them, and protected them. The work of a cowboy was not the easiest and involved a lot of routine. Sometimes the performance of work duties was associated with a danger to health and life. Nevertheless, the cowboys were doing their job, which was important to everyone around them.

From the outside, for an ignorant person, the work of a cowboy could look interesting, heroic and romantic, and the negative aspects went by the wayside. This perception quickly led to the formation of a new literary genre, which then gave life to several new directions.

For a number of special reasons, the artistic reflection of the life and work of "cow boy" was markedly different from reality. These differences then turned into stereotypes that became mandatory elements of the work. As a result, the image of the cowboy in art has lived its own life, not quite similar to the real work of horse herders.

However, this is hardly a problem. At one time, cowboys became more than an interesting phenomenon and an important component of the Wild West, as well as the national economy of the developing United States. Later, on the basis of a real image, a classic artistic image appeared, significantly different from it. Despite notable differences and a distinctive history of appearance, both images have become an important part of North American culture and have not gone unnoticed abroad.

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Mashakova A.K.

Reflection of Integration Processes in the Modern Kazakh Literature

*M.O.Auezov Institute of Literature and Art
(Kazakhstan, Almaty)*

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Аннотация

Интеграционные процессы в современной казахской литературе – интересное явление, изучение которого даст несомненный эффект для выявления интегративных тенденций в общемировом литературном процессе. Системным исследованием казахской литературы в данном ракурсе занимаются научные сотрудники Института литературы и искусства им. М. О. Ауэзова. В статье уделено особое внимание подготовленным ими коллективным монографиям «Литературно-художественный диалог», «Международные связи казахской литературы в период независимости», «Интеграционные процессы и казахская литература», «Казахско-американские литературные связи», «Абай Кунанбаев в мировом литературоведении».