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From Hopalong to Hud: Thoughts on Western Fiction

Charles Leland Sonnichsen

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Charles Leland Sonnichsen : From Hopalong to Hud: Thoughts on Western Fiction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Hopalong to Hud: Thoughts on Western Fiction:

Many books and innumerable articles have been published on the subject of Westerns since 1960, but the emphasis has been almost entirely on Western movies. Not much attention has been paid to the fiction of and about the American West. This book begins with the assumption that the novel of the West is a sort of autobiography of the West and that the writing must be studied if we are to see what our fiction reveals about ourselves. In these eleven essays C. L. Sonnichsen looks at both popular and serious fiction, starting with a consideration of what the West means to America and the world and going on to discuss a number of topics that act as mirrors to our prejudices and emotions. What does our fiction show has happened to our feelings about the Mexican over the last century? About violence? About sex? About the mythical West? The authors final chapter suggests other doors that should be openedother topics of Western fiction that should be investigated and discussed. In scope and variety of approaches this book is unique. Some chapters will provoke heated disagreement, but the subject is timely. Nothing is more

interesting to us than ourselves, and these essays tell something about who and what we are.