

Sitting Bull in Cody

On June 16, 2006 during the annual conference of the “*Western Writers of America*”, the volume “**Sitting Bull’s Pipe**“ was presented in the *BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER* in Cody (Wyoming).

Both authors, **Dr. Robert B. Pickering** and **Professor Dr. Kenneth B. Tankersley** were present as were **Joanna Basha** (Oglala Lakota, related to the Sitting Bull family), the author of a touching preface, and **Curly Bear Wagner**, tribal elder and pipe carrier of the Blackfoot who contributed deep insights on the pipe in Native American culture. Furthermore, **Forrest Fenn**, dedicated collector and the owner of Sitting Bull’s pipe, was there. They all signed the volume.

The presentation was a striking success. The authors’ table was besieged by people interested in the true story of Sitting Bull’s murder case. Within less than an hour, all volumes on stock were sold out, so the authors had to get their own copies to satisfy the excited audience. Actually, “**Sitting Bull’s Pipe**” was the only book completely sold out that afternoon.

The exhibition of the original pipe of this significant Indian leader caused a sensation. At times, the crowd around the table and the exhibition case was so big that it was difficult to pass the hallway.

“The main success of this event,” as the publisher, **Dietmar Kuegler**, said, *“is the undiminished enormous interest in the man, Sitting Bull. He was a truly great Native American patriot. A man of principles, an impressive mind, and a strong advocate for the values and rights of his people. To see that such a person still draws great attention of a general public more than one hundred years after his violent death is a wonderful*



From l. to r.: Dr. R. Pickering, Prof. Dr. Ken Tankersley, Dietmar Kuegler (Publisher), Johanna Basha, Curly Bear Wagner.

Right: Forrest Fenn, beside Sitting Bull's original pipe.

experience. Sitting Bull is still a symbol for Native American history and culture.” Joanna Basha said: “This book is an important part of bringing honor back to us as well as teaching the world that there is no death, just a change of worlds. Sitting Bull is still a powerful leader. When he and many others went away along with the buffalo all Native peoples’ hearts fell to the ground and



Left: Prof. Dr. Ken Tankersley and Joanna Basha with the publisher, Dietmar Kuegler at the reception of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

for so long we could not lift them up again, the new dawn of this progressive so called civilization has been a mental war not as much a physical one. However, Native voices can never be silenced. The Creator has blessed us with principles for a straight way of life.

Our contributions to correcting the myths with the aid of this book will but again, prove our worth as citizens of this country telling more of the stories of our constancy in the face of hardship and unjust death of our family/leader Sitting Bull. We live and will live, not only in the splendor of our past, poetry of our legend and art, but also in the living heart of this great nation, so this book is of such importance and overdue.”



Above: Dr. Robert Pickering and Forrest Fenn.

Left: The Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody set the frame for the successful book presentation.