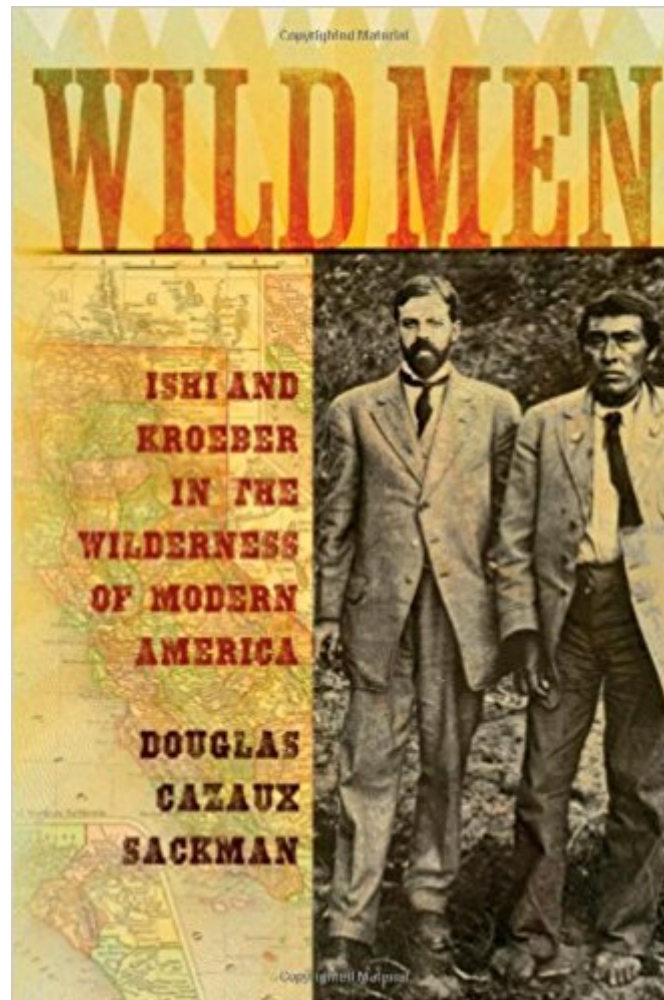




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# Wild Men: Ishi And Kroeber In The Wilderness Of Modern America



## Synopsis

When Ishi, "the last wild Indian," came out of hiding in August 1911, he was quickly whisked away by train to San Francisco to meet Alfred Kroeber, one of the fathers of American anthropology. When Kroeber and Ishi came face to face, it was a momentous event, not only for each man but also for the cultures they represented. Each stood on the brink--one was in danger of losing something vital while the other was in danger of disappearing altogether. Ishi was a survivor, and he viewed the bright lights of the big city with a mixture of awe and bemusement. What surprised everyone is how handily he adapted himself to the modern city while maintaining his sense of self and his culture. Kroeber was professionally trained to document Ishi's culture and his civilization. What he didn't count on was how deeply working with the man would lead him to question his own profession and his civilization--how it would rekindle a wildness of his own. Although Ishi's story has been told before in film and fiction, *Wild Men* is the first book to focus on the depth of Ishi and Kroeber's friendship. Exploring what their intertwined stories tell us about Indian survival in modern America and about America's fascination with the wild, this text is an ideal supplement for courses on Native American history, the U.S. West, and the history of California.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sackman adds to the extensive writings on Ishi, the last survivor of the Yahi tribe of Northern California, by delving into the unique relationship between the "wild" man and Alfred Kroeber, head of the Museum of Anthropology at Berkeley. With the Sierra Club, Kroeber and Ishi took

nature walks around San Francisco, and Ishi shared his knowledge of the artifacts at the museum with his mentor, who had him installed there as a janitor. Three years after emerging from the wild in 1911, Ishi joins Kroeber and others for a three-week tour of his former homeland, which proved to be an emotional visit as it now seemed to be a strange and lonely place. The Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915 is a symbolic moment as Ishi appears with a Blackfeet group as their guest of honor, and Kroeber bristles at ethnographic displays he described as of the "cheap show variety." • The encounter between these two men embodied the whole story of the American frontier, Sackman maintains, a story still debated today. --Deborah Donovan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Nuanced and thought-provoking...Recommended for readers interested in Native American studies and particularly the fate of Ishi." --Library Journal "You would think the subject matter of Ishi has been thoroughly raked over by now, but Douglas Cazaux Sackman ... has found two new seams that promise a payoff. [Wild Men] gives us new ways of thinking about the Ishi phenomenon."--History New Network "This is a splendid narrative-touching, stark, and humane. Wild Men illuminates the lives and the worlds of these two remarkable men from the inside out."--Brian DeLay, University of Colorado, Boulder

Not what I had hoped, but excellent nonetheless. A fine homage to a human being who had reached the end of his ability to live and thrive in his lifelong environment and ventured into a world beyond his comprehension, yet in spite of language and cultural barriers managed to teach what he knew to the extent of his ability. Well worth reading just for the shift in paradigm between two cultures, in my opinion.

Sackman has taken a well know story and crafted it into a marvelous excursion into the lives of two fascinating individuals. Along the way his story takes many highways and byways, bringing together a wealth of information and insights into turn-of-the century San Francisco,, native American history, the study of anthropology, train travel, and so much more. A fascinating read, highlighted by numerous photos.

The author gets off track a bit, going into history of more every character in the book. I would have rather read more on ISHI than the whites who negatively impacted his life before being found, however this book provides a good historical account of the time ISHI Spent with the white peeps at

the time

Easy to read and interesting, I was reading chapters ahead of where we were in class and continued reading past the required pages. It really sucks you in and holds your attention. Loved it!

I was recommended to read this book for a presentation on Ishi. there was so much information that I had not yet known about the whole situation between Ishi and Kroeber. It is an easy and informative read.

This book gives you a more realistic picture of the "Ishi" phenomenon than the more idealized book

Got to talking to my Mom-in-Law about an article about Ishi in TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTER, which she read in its entirety. She is from that area of California and didn't know the story, which she found fascinating. Ended up buying her a couple of Ishi books for Christmas. If you're a serious student of the subject you'll consider the original books "foundational", as they show the cultural biases of the period. Still spellbinding reading.

Excellent.

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