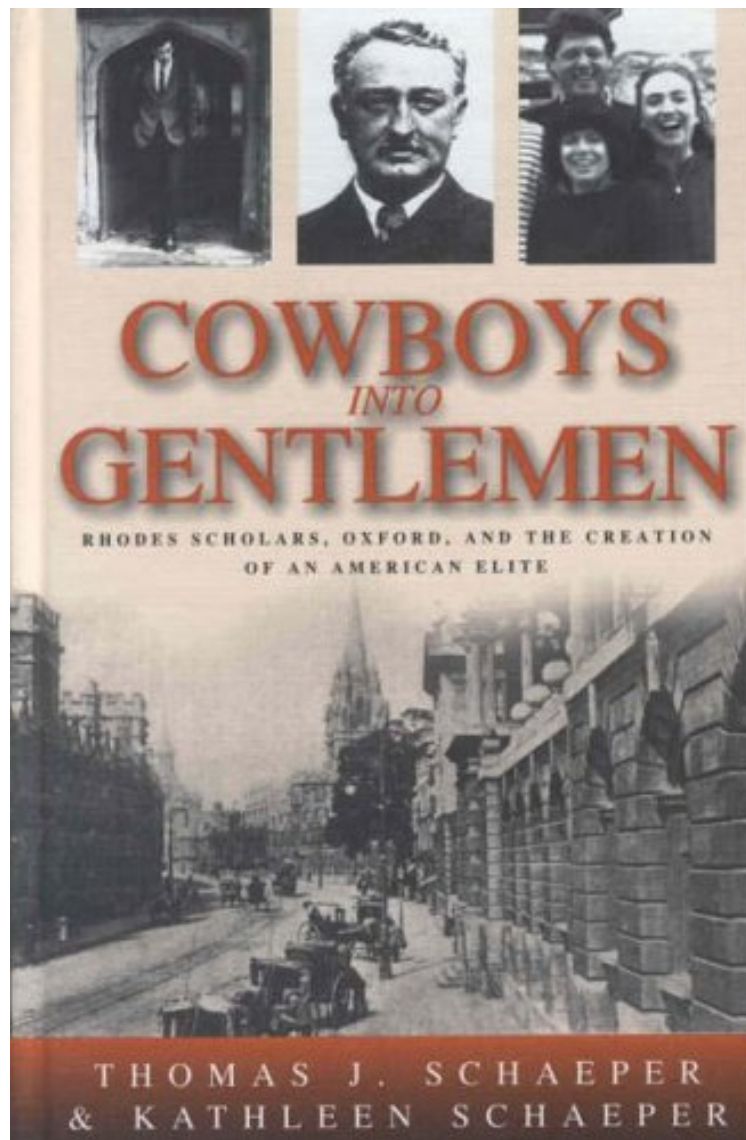


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Cowboys Into Gentlemen: Rhodes Scholars, Oxford, and the Creation of an American Elite (New Directions in Anthropology; 10)

Thomas J Schaeper

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Each year 32 seniors at American universities are awarded Rhodes Scholarships, which entitle them to spend two or three years studying at the University of Oxford. This book traces the history of the programme and the stories of many individuals. In addition it addresses a host of questions such as how important the Oxford experience was.

From Library JournalRhodes Scholar: Most people have heard the term, but probably few know the history behind it. Schaeper (France and America During the Revolutionary Era, Berghen, 1995), an LJ reviewer, and Kathleen Schaeper provide readers with a detailed account of the award, beginning with Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), who felt he could best change the world by establishing scholarships to Oxford for students from all parts of the British Empire and from the United States and Germany. Recipients were to be "all-round men, studious but also fond of outdoor sports...chosen on the basis of moral character and leadership potential." The Schaeper's focus primarily on American Rhodes Scholars, how they were affected by their years at Oxford, and what effect their presence had at the university. They also show why Rhodes Scholars have an elite reputation and how accurate (or not) that conception is. Entertaining and informative reading for the general reader, this title is recommended for most public and academic libraries. Terry A. Christner, Hutchinson P.L., KS Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Every year, thousands of U.S. college students apply for a Rhodes scholarship to study at England's famous Oxford University. Yet only 32 are chosen, making Rhodes scholars among the elite, at least statistically speaking. Yet are they truly so special? That question permeates this survey of the program, from its inception in 1903 under the will of Cecil Rhodes, British colonialist and creator of Rhodesia, to the present. The Schaeper's answer is a decidedly mixed one. Many Rhodes scholars have had significant careers in the arts, business, or government. Many more, however, have accomplished little of note. And over the years a disturbing three dozen have committed suicide. The upshot? The scholarship provides a fine opportunity to experience another culture and to create lasting friendships. But being named a Rhodes scholar creates its own unique pressures and disappointments. Maybe those rejected are luckier than they realize? Brian McCombie About the Author Thomas J. Schaeper is Professor of History at St. Bonaventure University, a member of the editorial board of French Historical Studies, and the author of four previous books on European and American history. Kathleen Schaeper is a social studies teacher at Allegany-Limestone Central School. For several years they co-directed the St. Bonaventure summer program at the University of Oxford.