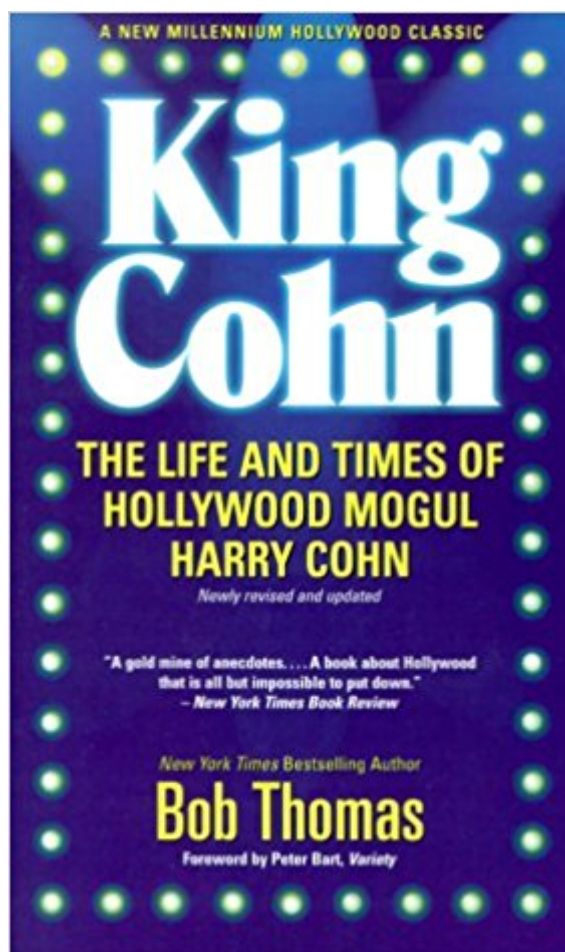


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# King Cohn: The Life And Times Of Harry Cohn (Revised And Updated)



## Synopsis

Harry Cohn was a self-invented tyrant who ran Columbia Studios as his personal fiefdom. Extensive interviews and research fuel Bob Thomas's portrayal of a Broadway song plugger turned powerful player.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Harry Cohn was a self-invented tyrant who ran Columbia Studios as his personal fiefdom. Extensive interviews and research fuel Bob Thomas's portrayal of a Broadway song plugger turned powerful player.

Bob Thomas puts together a well-written biography of Harry Cohn. Maybe it is better to state, "well-edited". He mentions early on that there was a good deal of official transcripts that he re-used. The reader will definitely get a very good sense of Cohn's life and motivations but there are two things that stick in this reviewer's craw: 1. The glaring omission of anything about Cohn's and Columbia's dealings with The Three Stooges. I can't believe that there were not interesting things that occurred in the comedy team's twenty-five year run with the film studio. 2. It was crass of Thomas to publish the afterword. It did nothing to add to the greatness of the story he presented. In fact, it cheapened it. For these two reasons, I drop the worthiness of the book to 4 stars. Still, a great

read.

King Cohn is superior to the other available biography of Columbia Picture's Czar Harry Cohn, *The Merchant of Poverty Row*. It documents the rise of Columbia from a poverty row cheapie movie studio into the well respected and money making Major it became after the release of Frank Capra's "It Happened One Night" with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert in 1934. The only complaint is the lack of detail and truth concerning Cohn's mob connections and his well known appetite for bedding actresses employed by Columbia. My guess is that the author had the co-operation of Cohn's widow, Joan, and in return he left out the casting couch anecdotes. All in all--a very entertaining read.

Bob Thomas has surely done a great job of capturing the real Harry Cohn...I have read lately several books relating to Harry Cohn, but for some reason I didn't look into the matter. Finally I thought...this has to be a very interesting man. So I was delighted that there was a revised edition of *King Cohn* available. It was so hard to put the book down...I just kept reading about this most interesting man of Hollywood. He came across as being a tough guy...very opinionated, and pushy. But, to me he was a soft guy with the tough veneer...I wanted this book to go on, and on...It was one of the best books that Bob Thomas has written. It was indeed so interesting to hear about the contract players at his studio, and all the so called checking up on them behind the scenes...I thoroughly recommend this book to all the film historians out there who can't get enough of this information. Thanks to this book, I have checked out certain films with the Columbia contract players...and boy those films were something else!

This updated version of Bob Thomas's biography of Columbia studio chief Harry Cohn is very enjoyable reading. Since its original publication, anonymous sources have come forward and new facts and anecdotes have been incorporated. The brusque, outspoken Cohn appears to have been only concerned with Columbia's most important productions, and Thomas's text reflects this bias. If you're looking for details about Columbia's bread-and-butter product, including its popular "B" pictures, westerns, short subjects, serials, and cartoons, you won't find anything here, and even some of the studio's "A" pictures receive only passing mention. Thomas keeps the spotlight on the colorful Cohn, with some incredible stories and quotes. A great read for movie buffs.

Bob Thomas does a great job telling the story of Harry Cohn, the executive behind Columbia

Pictures who was either loved or hated by the people who worked for him. Kim Novak has said repeatedly that Harry Cohn looked out for her and made sure that Kim got good scripts and whatever she needed to make her both a star and a better actress. Red Skelton commented on the fact that over 3000 people showed up for Harry Cohn's funeral. "You give people something they want to see, they will show up." Bob Thomas does a great job showing all sides of early film executive. Highly recommended.

Harry Cohn WAS the movie business. He loved it, he lived it, and he died in it. He took the baton from his brother Jack and never stopped running, slicing his way through movie history with a zeal that was unmatched. This book is great for any person that would like to know more about Harry Cohn. It's a great and easy read that you will find hard to put down. I've heard a lot about Harry Cohn in my life and this book is on target. Bob Thomas has truly done his research. Thomas' father's career as a publicity man for the major studios started his interest in the business at an early age. Thomas' job as a Hollywood Columnist for the AP at 22 years old put him in the action. Buy it, Read it, put it in your book collection. I did.

Interesting reading. Nasty man.

This book is in excellent condition; can't wait to read it; just finished book on Rita Hayworth. Might read this book, next. But it is in very good condition from the bookseller; nice book!

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