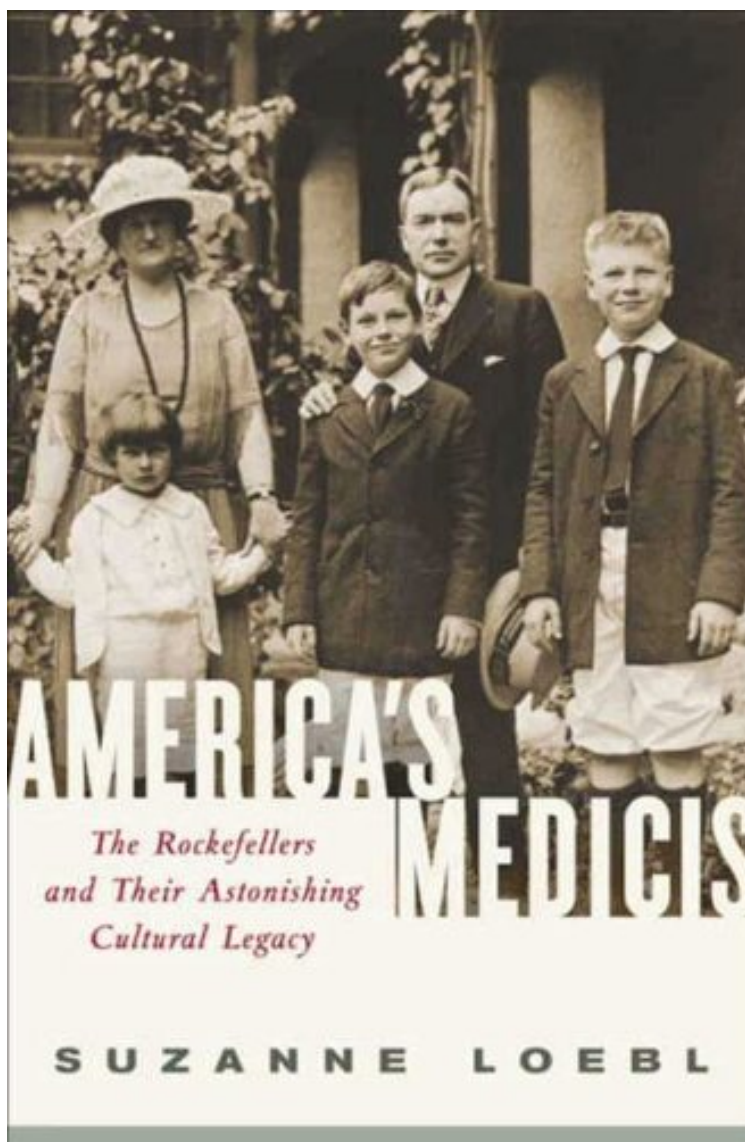


America's Medicis: The Rockefellers and Their Astonishing Cultural Legacy

Suzanne Loeb

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Suzanne Loeb : America's Medicis: The Rockefellers and Their Astonishing Cultural Legacy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Medicis: The Rockefellers and Their Astonishing Cultural Legacy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Disappointing ChapterBy RWEI was very disappointed with the chapter on "Colonial Williamsburg and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Museum of American Folk Art". The author gives the restoration of Williamsburg only a very cursory mention and devoted almost the entire chapter to the folk art

museum. Granted, the folk art museum is important and the background provided was much needed, but Colonial Williamsburg was one of Junior's most significant projects, coming in at over 60 million dollars. The cultural significance of the restoration far outstrips the folk art museum in almost every way from museum studies and historical research to decorative arts. The restoration has played a huge role in taste making since it opened from home decor to exterior paint schemes. Perhaps the author felt that the restoration story had been told elsewhere, but she should have acknowledged the many books about it but didn't. Considering the whole premise of her book I am mightily surprised at how she treated this chapter. If there is ever a revised edition perhaps she can give Colonial Williamsburg its own chapter and the folk art museum (which now only exists as gallery space within the decorative arts museum. The original museum is now a luxury day spa. What does THAT tell you about the attitude toward the collection?) could have its own chapter. Finally, the author's very scant description of the Rockefeller's and Colonial Williamsburg is confirmed in her "Acknowledgements", where she doesn't mention a single person from either the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation or even the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. She also doesn't acknowledge anyone from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Considering the terseness of the chapter in question and that last bit she obviously didn't want to "waste her time".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. could have been a 5 star with more color images

By Howard Schulman

Although I enjoyed reading this book about the Rockefellers' contribution to the art world, a major problem with it is the lack of images. I supposed copyright issues may have limited the number of images the author could have used, but still, this is a book on art !?!? Nevertheless, the book is well written and researched and gives the reader a flavor for the first four generations of Rockefellers in addition to their contribution to American culture. It was a pleasure to read, and I benefitted by filling in gaps in my knowledge as well as deepening my understanding (especially Nelson and John 3 rd), as this has been my fifth book I read on the family. I plan on visiting Kykuit this coming spring. Visiting the MOMA will never be the same.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a history book

By Julie King

Very interesting history of the Rockefeller's art legacy. Reads like a history book. I had no idea how many projects, both nationally and internationally, that Mr. and Mrs. John Rockefeller, junior contributed to the art world. I want to visit some of their legacies!

From literary polymath Suzanne Loebl (the author of ten books, most recently the acclaimed *America's Art Museums*) comes the captivating, first-of-its kind exploration into the philanthropic and cultural legacy of one of America's wealthiest and most influential families: The Rockefellers. Fueled by John D. Rockefeller's vast petroleum fortune, the entire family's terrific passion for the arts transformed the artistic infrastructure of twentieth century America. Funding museums like the MoMA, the Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of the Oriental Art at the University of Chicago, and commissioning major architectural projects like Rockefeller Center, Riverside Church, and Lincoln Center, the Rockefellers' achievements forever changed the cultural landscape of the Western world. Loebl's penetrating biography is the first book to deeply explore the family's critical role as collectors and patrons of the arts.