

The Life of Millicent Rogers: The American Heiress Who Taught the World About Style, Adventure, and the Art of Living

Millicent Rogers was an American heiress, socialite, art collector, jewelry designer, and philanthropist who lived a life of extraordinary adventure and style. Born into immense wealth in 1905, she defied societal expectations and forged her own path, becoming a cultural icon of the 20th century.

Early Life and Family

Millicent Rogers was born in New York City to Henry Huddleston Rogers, a wealthy oil magnate, and Mary Benjamin Rogers. She was the youngest of three children and grew up in a life of privilege and luxury. Rogers attended private schools in New York and Europe, where she developed a passion for art, fashion, and travel.



Searching for Beauty: The Life of Millicent Rogers, the American Heiress Who Taught the World About Style

by Cherie Burns

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Marriage and Divorce

In 1924, at the age of 19, Rogers married Charles Cary Rumsey, a Wall Street stockbroker. The marriage was short-lived, and they divorced in 1927. After the divorce, Rogers embarked on a whirlwind of travel and adventure, which would shape the rest of her life.

World Travel and Cultural Explorations

Inspired by her insatiable curiosity and love of different cultures, Rogers traveled extensively throughout her life. She visited exotic destinations such as India, China, Japan, and Mexico, immersing herself in local traditions and collecting art and jewelry. Her travels had a profound impact on her personal style and artistic sensibilities.

Art Collection and Jewelry Design

Rogers was a passionate art collector, with a particular interest in Native American art and jewelry. She amassed a significant collection of Navajo and Pueblo silverwork, which she wore with flair and originality. Rogers also designed her own jewelry, creating unique pieces that showcased her love of color, texture, and bohemian influences.

Bohemian Lifestyle and Fashion Icon

Rogers was known for her unconventional and bohemian lifestyle. She rebelled against the social norms of her time, embracing a free-spirited and adventurous approach to life. Her eclectic wardrobe, which included colorful ethnic garments, vintage clothing, and bold accessories, made her a fashion icon of the era.

Philanthropy and Social Activism

Despite her wealth and privilege, Rogers was deeply committed to social causes. She supported various charitable organizations, including those that provided education, healthcare, and assistance to the underprivileged. Rogers was also an outspoken advocate for civil rights and women's empowerment.

Later Years and Legacy

In her later years, Rogers settled in Taos, New Mexico, where she continued to pursue her interests in art, jewelry, and philanthropy. She passed away in 1964 at the age of 59, leaving behind a legacy of style, adventure, and social consciousness.

Millicent Rogers was a remarkable woman who lived a life of extraordinary passion, adventure, and creativity. As an American heiress, she defied societal expectations and forged her own path, becoming a cultural icon of the 20th century. Her travels, art collection, jewelry designs, bohemian lifestyle, and philanthropic efforts continue to inspire and captivate people worldwide.



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