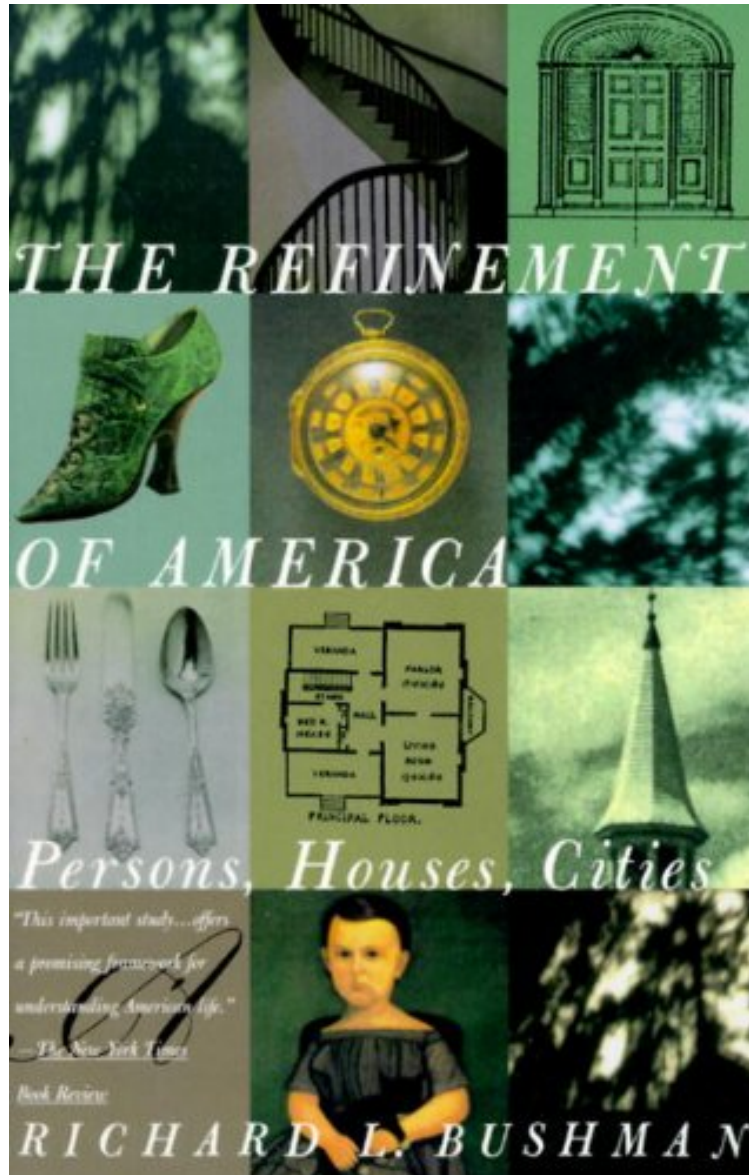


(Get free) The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities

The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities

Von Richard Lyman Bushman
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation Verffentlicht am: 2011-09-21Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-09-21File Name:
B005KDDTIM | File size: 79.Mb

Von Richard Lyman Bushman : The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
RecommendedVon Bianca SultanaIn The Refinement of America, Richard L. Bushman focuses on gentility and how

the desire to become one of society's elite led to the formation of a whole new class of consumers. The soaring demand for such accoutrements as porcelain and silver made way for industrial capitalism by creating a market economy. Bushman takes a positive outlook on the spread of commerce and gentility throughout the 18th century British Atlantic World. The gentrification and refinement of America created the desire for social mobility, the American Dream. "Gentility offered the hope that however poor or however undignified their work, could become middle class by disciplining themselves and adopting a few outward forms of genteel living." (Bushman, xvi) In this way lines between classes were blurred. Education and worldliness became more important than ever before, as being polite and well-spoken marked respectability. Bushman's work is easy to read and enjoyable. Growing up in present-day America, we are all taught by our parents to say "please" and "thank you," and Bushman offers us insight into the origins of polite culture. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning a little bit more about America (particularly, the 18th century) that is not found in school-used text books.

Kurzbeschreibung This lively and authoritative volume makes clear that the quest for taste and manners in America has been essential to the serious pursuit of a democratic culture. Spanning the material world from mansions and silverware to etiquette books, city planning, and sentimental novels, Richard L. Bushman shows how a set of values originating in aristocratic court culture gradually permeated almost every stratum of American society and served to prevent the hardening of class consciousness. A work of immense and richly nuanced learning, *The Refinement of America* newly illuminates every facet of both our artifacts and our values. From the Trade Paperback edition. From Kirkus sA historical survey of the idea of gentility as expressed in architecture, furnishings, fashions, manners, and taste from about 1690-1850. Bushman (History/Columbia; co-editor, *Uprooted Americans*, 1979) has the rare gift of seeing the theoretical--the bases of class, power, and culture--in domestic, ordinary, specific detail and behavior. The author begins with the years 1700-90, tracing the origins of gentility to the aristocratic and worldly courts of Europe, and observing its sudden emergence in the refinements of colonial centers--rural and urban--in mansions, gardens, pianos, parasols, carpets, penmanship, courtesy books, personal hygiene, and social discipline. He then considers the years after the Revolution, from 1790-1850, during which gentility became ``vernacular," democratized, identified with respectability--a middle-class standard associated with domesticity, religion, and the work ethic, with its major site being the ubiquitous parlor. Although gentility was exclusive, censorious, judgmental, and artificial--an elitist ideal inappropriate for an egalitarian society (a point made by John F. Kasson in *Rudeness and Civility*, 1990)--it contributed immensely, Bushman says, to American life: to architecture and the decorative arts but also, in fulfilling the many needs of aspiring gentility, to manufacturing, trade, commerce, education, and, especially, literacy, since the models for American refinement often were found in the novels of sensibility. The Americanization of gentility was, Bushman contends, the translation of a secular, leisured, and public ideal into a domestic one that encouraged religious practice and the work ethic. Resourceful, lucid, sweeping--a true and refining pleasure. (Photos--130--not seen.) -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From *Library Journal* What were the effects of refinement on personalities, society, and the material world in early America? In this work, Bushman maps the spread of refinement in 18th- and 19th-century America. The first section, "Gentility, 1700-1790," takes the "parlor life" movement from the urban wealthy, spreading across the land to encompass the small-town prosperous to affluent rural estates with a refined life limited to gentry. It exerted narrow influence on the lives of middle- and working-class Americans. The second section, "Respectability, 1790-1850," maps refinement as it spread down through the social structure to include the middle class and influence the working class. During this time, gentility expanded, with more people acquiring possessions, parlors, and the mannerisms of the genteel style. Bushman does a good job of showing the historical origins of refinement, its expansion in the United States, and its reflections in current society. Important to any library interested in the cultural life of America.- Terri P. Summey, Emporia State Univ. Lib., Kan. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.