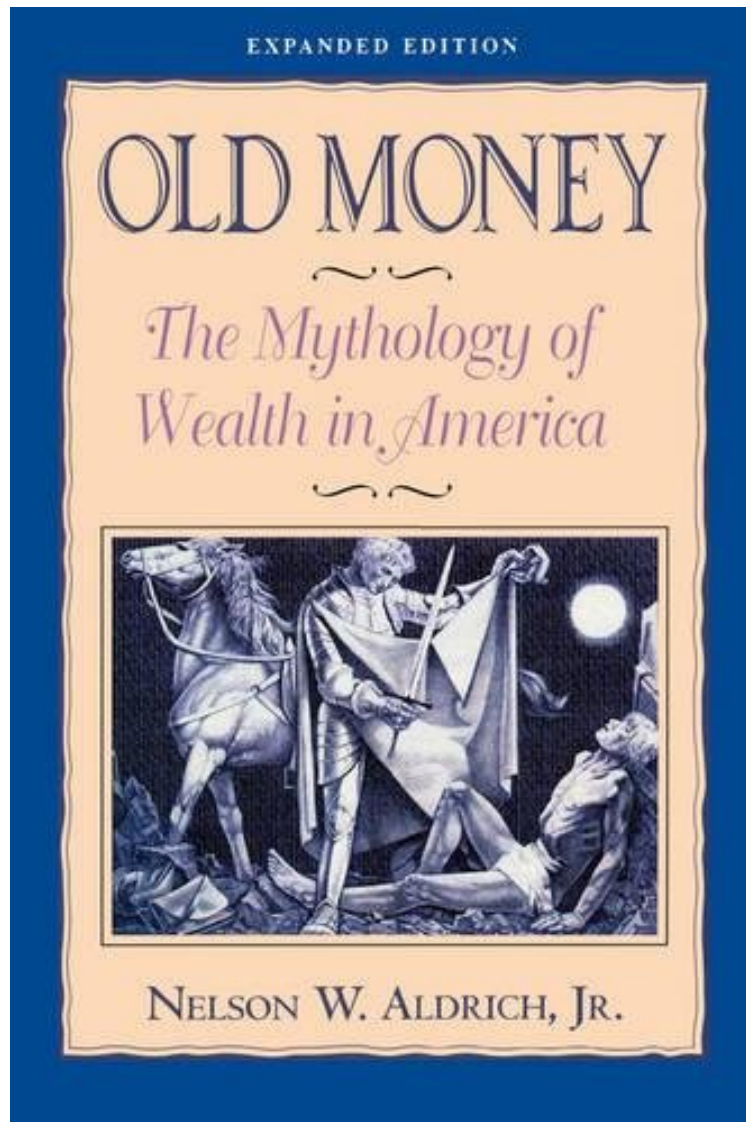


[Mobile book] Old Money: The Mythology of Wealth in America

Old Money: The Mythology of Wealth in America

Nelson Aldrich

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Nelson Aldrich : Old Money: The Mythology of Wealth in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Old Money: The Mythology of Wealth in America:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A good book on an odd subject By Preston L. Bannister This is a perfectly good book. Not great book in the sense of works that change your philosophy (as might "The Art of War" or

"The Prince"), but good in the sense of a book that gives you a useful map of unfamiliar terrain. The value you derive from this book will depend on your point of view. My point of view is as a child that grew up in southern California of middle-class mid-western parents. My father was one sort of engineer, and I am another. The culture Aldrich ably describes is entirely alien from anything in my experience, and not of immediate significance. The book title could have been "Old Money on Mars" and the contents would have meant pretty much the same (aside from surprise over folk on Mars). Also, suddenly the odd references in old Catherine Hepburn movies have gained meaning. Aldrich has an odd rhythm of expression. This threw me off for a bit, but seems to be product of his "class" and education. Once you get past the odd rhythm, the remaining text is easier to read. It seems that Aldrich and much of his "class" are both caught up in a common mythology, and troubled by the unclear coupling with reality. Aldrich tries to be objective, but is also clearly embedded within that micro-culture. This is a good book, it provided a map to a place I did not know existed. Update: Incidental to the main subject of the book, the author provides an unfamiliar perspective on historic figures Huey Long, JP Morgan, and Theodore Roosevelt. After some reflection, that different perspective served as the missing bit to a puzzle - and (for me) suddenly the current economic mess makes a lot more sense. So the book did provide a significant insight (if perhaps unintentionally). 103 of 108 people found the following review helpful. An Insider's View of the American Aristocracy By A Customer Virtually all other books describing America's moneyed class have been written by social scientists, primarily sociologists and economists, or romantic novelists, who do not have a clue as to how these people really live. Aldrich, on the other hand, comes from one of America's old moneyed families (his grandfather was a prominent U.S. Senator at the turn of the century and his uncle was Nelson Rockefeller). Educated at St. Paul's and Harvard in the fifties, he was provided with all of the benefits that money can provide. Unlike the modern ultra-rich, however, he was also provided a conscience and a sense of duty to his community. This book is, in large part, his effort to justify his own existence and that of his fellows to a society that often views them as little more than leeches who had the good fortune to be born into great wealth. In my opinion, and I suspect his as well, he ultimately fails, but he does provide the best defense of inherited wealth that I have read. In the course of that defense, he provides great insight into how Old Money thinks -- F. Scott Fitzgerald was right; they really are different from the rest of us. Those who enjoy this book should buy a copy of Money and Class in America: Notes and Observations on Our Civil Religion by Lewis Lapham, editor of Harper's magazine and himself from Old Money. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Cornerstone Book on Little-Understood Americans By Old Money Guy The author is to be applauded for presenting an insider's view of established wealth. Almost every book ever written about Old Money is from rank outsiders falling back on third-hand gossip and undocumented clichés (Lucius Beebe was the worst of these.) While Aldrich's frankness about the shaky foundations of his own family are much appreciated, he clouds his authority by being a terrible name-dropper. Rather than strengthen his arguments, these constant references to his "Social Register" pals drag the book into near self-parody. Also, sadly, nobody can accuse the author of crisp or amusing writing. And beware: much of the book harks back to people and incidents of the 1950s, 1940s -- and back even farther -- making most of the material seem pretty dusty.

This insider's look at inherited wealth in the United States explores the complex meanings of money and success in American society with a new introduction that examines whether America's privileged class will be willing or able to play a leadership role in the twenty-first century. Allworth Press, an imprint of Skyhorse Publishing, publishes a broad range of books on the visual and performing arts, with emphasis on the business of art. Our titles cover subjects such as graphic design, theater, branding, fine art, photography, interior design, writing, acting, film, how to start careers, business and legal forms, business practices, and more. While we don't aspire to publish a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are deeply committed to quality books that help creative professionals succeed and thrive. We often publish in areas overlooked by other publishers and welcome the author whose expertise can help our audience of readers.

Old Money: The Mythology Of Wealth in America is a witty and provocative look at the culture of the American upper class and the values and meanings of inherited wealth. Old Money examines how and why the values nurtured by the inheritors of wealth differ from those of the marketplace and the self-made man, and shows how these differing attitudes toward money affect the lives of individuals and the face of society. Old Money attitudes are an inheritance of educational and aesthetic values, attitudes toward the family, the genders and different generations, as well. Drawing on personal experience, historical anecdotes of leading families like the Vanderbilts, Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Rockefellers, and more than 150 interviews, Old Money conducts a revealing exploration of the complex meanings of money and success in American society. Old Money is a fascinating window into the psyche of a class that only those born to it have heretofore truly understood it. -- Midwest Book About the Author Nelson W. Aldrich, Jr. is the editor of The American Benefactor. Formerly Paris editor of the Paris Review, a senior editor at Harper's magazine, and a reporter for the Boston Globe, he is a frequent contributor to such publications as The Atlantic, Harper's, The Nation, Inc., New England Monthly, and Vogue.