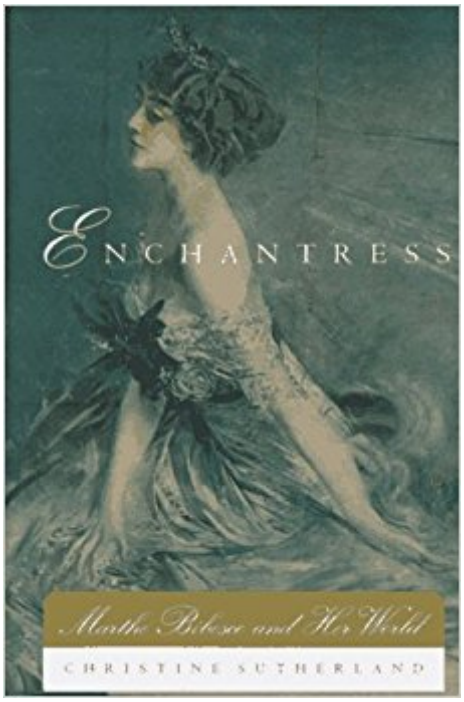
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Enchantress: Marthe Bibesco And Her World



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

A study of the life of Marthe Bibesco, the Romanian princess whose many admirers and friends included Proust, Gide, Cocteau, Alphonso XIII of Spain and Ferdinand of Romania. After the Communist invasion of Romania she was forced to flee for Paris, where she supported her family by writing.

Book Information

Hardcover: 318 pages

Publisher: Farrar Straus & Giroux (T) (January 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374148147

ISBN-13: 978-0374148140

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,679,664 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 inÃ Â Books > History > Europe > Romania #9324 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors #61859 inÃ Â Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

In 1902, Marthe Lavohary, a 16-year-old beauty, was married in Bucharest to Prince George Bibesco, the thoroughly spoiled and selfish son of the hereditary hospodar?governor?of Wallachia. Her devastating wedding night left her "obliterated." Although she would have many lovers, her relationships were more romantic, even intellectual, than physical. Spending her days far apart from Prince George, Marthe became a cosmopolitan socialite and notable author, with her base in Paris and her ancestral home, to which she repaired regularly, in Romania. Her admirers included a king of Spain, a crown prince of Germany, a British prime minister and a premier of France. Her books, written in French, won prizes and were the envy of rivals whose reputations have outlasted her own. Her now-forgotten potboiling novels, penned under pseudonyms when she needed money, were bestsellers. Witness to two world wars and writing until the end, she died in Paris at 87, nearly destitute. Yet her biography reads now like a faded operetta without music, and Sutherland (Maria Walewska) makes only a feeble attempt to breathe life into Princess Bibesco’s writings. Sixty-five volumes of her gossipy manuscript diaries survive, along with such books as the travel memoir The Eight Paradises and the evocative Isvor: The Land of the Willow, about her province and its people.

Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This first English-language biography of Romanian aristocrat and author Marthe Bibesco (1886-1973) reads like a historical romance. Blessed with both seductive beauty and intelligence, the cosmopolitan Princess Bibesco, who wrote in French, was an acclaimed and prolific writer who frequented elite European literary circles. Her sense of decorum and instinct for politics made her a favorite of kings, statesmen, and military officers, many of whom fell in love with her. Enduring the hardships of the two world wars, she witnessed the fall of Europe’s monarchies and the rise of the Communist regime in Romania. Much of Sutherland’s (Monica, Heroine of the Danish Resistance, LJ 6/15/90) knowledge of this early, rich, and famous globetrotter is based on Bibesco’s diaries, resulting in an uncritical and highly flattering portrayal. Still, the glamorized exploits of a brave and beautiful real-life heroine do "enchant" and, like a made-for-TV miniseries, will keep readers up late at night. Recommended for general readers interested in European history and culture and feminist biography.Carol McAllister, Coll. of William & Mary Lib., Williamsburg, Va.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a fascinating biography about one of the movers and shakers of the early 20th century. Probably the biggest question that many people might have is who was Princess Marthe Bibesco and why does she deserve a biography. Imagine someone who combined in one person the status in the aviation community of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, the literary ability of Pearl Buck, the glamour of Norma Shearer, the social status of Alice Longworth Roosevelt, and who presided over an international salon so impressive that it was nicknamed the second League of Nations. That was Marthe Bibesco, It was these qualities that made caused her fellow countrymen to acclaim her as the most influential Romanian woman of the 20th century.A great deal of Princess Bibesco’s influence was based on who she knew, she was related to most of the important people in Romania from birth. It was rare not to have a cabinet minister or an ambassador in the family. Throughout her life she was at the center of things and friends included the royal families of Sweden, Spain, Germany and Romania, most of the literary elite of France, Proust and Jean Cocteau in particular, Ramsey MacDonald, Winston Churchill, and finally Charles de Gaulle. Her husband was the leading proponent of aviation in Romanian which only added to her glamourAlthough always socially prominent in her own country, Marthe burst onto the international literary scene with the publication of the work, The Eight Paradises, a collection of impressions during her 1905 journey to Persia with her husband, who was on a diplomatic mission. This book, written her first language, French,

secured her position as a writer, which lasted through the 1970s.While very cosmopolitan, Princess Bibesco was very much a Romanian. In early 20s, she published Isvor, the Land of the Willows, a book which explored the folk and pagan beliefs of the peasants of her native land. There was also her work to restore Mogassoaia, a 17th century palace and her country establishment and designed to be a celebration of the Brancovenesc style and the traditional Romanian hospodar culture. De Gaulle read Isvor while en route to a state visit to Romanian in the 1960s and pronounced insightful in the nature of the country. Mogassoaia remains one of the leading tourist destinations. It houses a museum that celebrates the very culture that Marthe was attempting to preserve. Her efforts, in the literary and sphere or historical restoration remain important components of her legacy. While persona non grata during the Communist period, her legacy is very much appreciated in today's Romania.World War II and the communist takeover of Romania were disasters for Princess Bibescu, although she was better equipped than most to support herself (and her family) during her last 30 years. She continued to write, maintain a wide-ranging correspondence and lecture on a variety of topics almost until the day of her death. Oddly enough, for someone who had lived a life that included knowing most of the prominent people in royal, political, religious, literary and aviation circles, several harrowing experiences during World War I when she ran a hospital in occupied Bucharest and the difficulties she faced from World War II on, she never appears to have contemplated writing her memoirs, at least in fullThis biography by Christine Sutherland does a great deal to recall the spirit of Princess Bibescu, however it does have one serious, though not fatal shortfall. Marthe was clearly a fascinating character, her wide range of acquaintances is testimony enough. What is lacking is an exploration of what made her so fascinating. There is no evidence of what must have been considerable conversational capabilities (in several languages) and just what she did that set her apart from the run of the mill society hostess. While not providing us with the woman, Ms Sutherland certainly does provide us with the life. Despite its shortcomings this is a rather interesting read, every bit as diverse as its subject's interests.

Marthe Bibesco was one of those amazing women that time has since forgotten (though now the people of Romania have created a study center in her name in one of her old homes). Like Voltaire in a previous age, her correspondence with the movers and shakers in the world between the wars was nothing short of amazing. A friend to all, a diplomat, an aviatrix and intrepid traveler, an impoverished refugee from her own country living on her wits and her writing talent in Paris, she was on everyone's guest list. She probably did more in a year than the rest of us do in a lifetime! Written in a lady-like fashion without any intimate detail, she has one mesmerized by her many

loves and relationships. An enjoyable read for the history for sure, but also a compelling portrait of the fates of the now long vanished aristocracy that came to an end when the Iron Curtain fell.

Fabolous one of the greatest bioghrophy aOf a fabolous womanHistoric

I just read the introduction and found the short summary of Romania's history very patronizing. We don't consider Mircea cel Batran, Mihai Viteazul as fable-folklore myths, they are kings of Romania, part of a real (not mythical) history of the country. Braga is not a drink made out of honey, it is a millet beer, one doesn't need much in-depth study of other people's novels about Romania, just a simple google search to figure this out. Braga might be a mead in Russia, but as the author mythicizes about the origins of the country, news flash, Romania is not Russia. We do have a history of our own, no matter how much others around us tried to subjugate us. And why is everyone so keen to change the given names of foreign people, it is Bibescu not Bibesco and so on. I am going to read the book, but I do not hold much hope for it.

Marthe Bibesco was member of the Romanian nobility. Acquainted with the vast network of aristocracy that existed before its demise in World War I, she was celebrated in the pre-war Salons of Paris for her literary talent and her beauty. Marthe partook of Proust's world and knew many of those who influenced characters in his great opus. During the first world war she worked as a red cross volunteer in Bucharest. She became a friend and advisor to British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald and supported Romania's support of the Allied forces in both World Wars. In later life, she lost her wealth and her family in the communist take over of Romania. Marthe continued to support herself through her prolific writing and became a confidante to De Gaulle in the last part of her life. Marthe's life is worth a close examination because it spans the decaying world of monarchy and princelings to the Cold War of communism and democracy. Despite the turbulence of her life, her literary fame and awards, and her involvement with European politicians she is virtually unknown today in the West. This book is the first English language biography of her and will, with hope, redress that problem

Download to continue reading...

Enchantress: Marthe Bibesco and Her World Akiane: Her Life, Her Art, Her Poetry The Enchantress Returns (The Land of Stories) Barcelona The Great Enchantress (Directions) The Land of Stories: The Enchantress Returns Enchantress (The Evermen Saga Book 1) The Enchantress (The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel) Enchantress from the Stars The Art of Pleasing a Woman: Learn

the True Desires of a Woman and How to Get Her and Keep Her Maria Montessori and Her Quiet Revolution: A Picture Book about Maria Montessori and Her School Method Phoebe and Her Unicorn (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 1) Phoebe and Her Unicorn in the Magic Storm (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 6) Unicorn vs. Goblins (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 3): Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure Unicorn Crossing (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 5): Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure Unicorn on a Roll (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 2): Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure Razzle Dazzle Unicorn (Phoebe and Her Unicorn Series Book 4): Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure Attract Women: Ã¢â ¬Å“HeyÃ¢â ¬Â• to Lay: The 7 Steps to Approaching Women, Unlocking Her AttractionÃ¢â ¬Â¦ and Her Legs (Dating Advice for Men on How to Approach Women and Attract Women) Sex: Sex Starved Marriage: 33 Demonstrated Sex Positions + 14 Best Tips On How To Last Longer, Make Her Scream And Be The Best Lover In Her Life (+FREE BONUS)(Sex and Marriage, Sex Positions Book) Chanel: Her style and her life Worthy of Her Trust: What You Need to Do to Rebuild Sexual Integrity and Win Her Back

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help