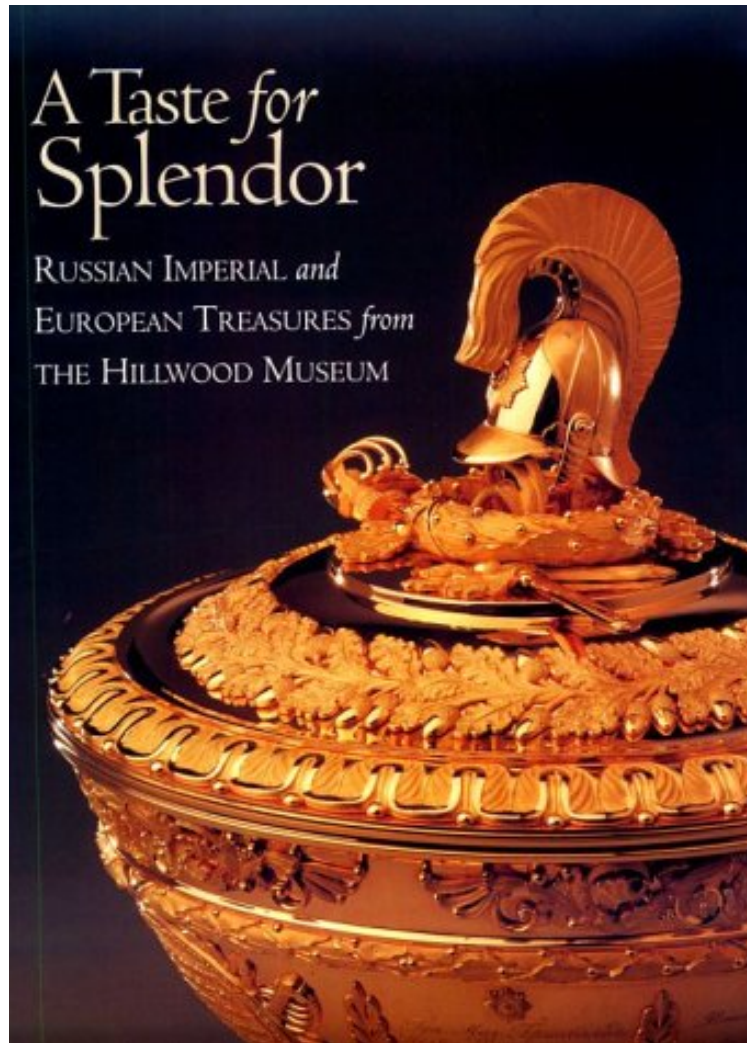


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## Taste for Splendor: Russian Imperial European Treasures from the Hillwood Museum

*Anne Odom, Liana Paredes Arend*  
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**Anne Odom, Liana Paredes Arend : Taste for Splendor: Russian Imperial European Treasures from the Hillwood Museum** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taste for Splendor: Russian Imperial European Treasures from the Hillwood Museum:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Elegance from EuropeBy LDHillwood was the home of cereal heiress Marjorie Post in Washington, DC. You can tour the house and the spectacular gardens. It is just a couple of blocks from the Zoo. During the 1920s she and her husband, EF Hutton, began acquiring 18th century French furniture and porcelain. In the 1930s she and her husband, Joseph Davies, began buying Romanov treasures from the Soviet

government while he was the US ambassador to Moscow. The historical narrative is quick detailed. This book not only shows some of the large elaborately furnished rooms, but lists with a color photograph all the extraordinary items in the estate- date of manufacture, by whom, dimensions, and its history. This is a cross section of decorative arts: tapestry, painted and jeweled boxes, paintings, porcelain, etched glasses, furniture, candelabra, gold works, jeweled objects, and a Faberge egg. There are one or two high resolution color photos per page, some taking up the entire page. The details are clear. Since photography is not allowed on the tour, this is the best souvenir you can get. Had you taken these photos, it would cost you more than the price of this book to get them developed. If decorative arts such as these are of interest to you, I whole heartily recommend the Minneapolis Institute of Art which has the most extensive collection in the US. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lucid and Informative Text with Great Photos - Outstanding !! By John Silence is GoldenA collector of art doesn't necessarily have and can't buy artistic taste and sensibility no matter how much money he/she may have. Marjorie Merriweather Post { MMP, 1887-1973 } heiress to the Post Cereal {later General Foods} Fortune including marriages { out of 4 } to millionaire stockbroker E.F. Hutton and the future ambassador to the Soviet Union Joseph Davies had an excess of both which is reflected in her magnificent collections at the Hillwood Estate, her former Washington D.C. home, now the museum. While MMP had been collecting art since her teens, she was also very fortunate to be at the right place at the right time {January 1937 June 1938} as the wife of Ambassador Davies. She had influence and the ducats to purchase all manner of Russian Objects de Art for nominal prices, even pennies on the dollar. The Bolsheviks need for hard currency allied to their ignorance and disdain for much of the artistic treasures they possessed allowed MMP to purchase {and in the case of some of the Gold, Silver Religious pieces} and vestments} save them from their dismantling, dismemberment and destruction. MMP - Money, taste and luck a nice trifecta!! This is not a coffee table book of just great pictures. The narrative is an impressive achievement including chapters - a fairly extensive biography MMP, the selling and the destruction of Russian Art by the Bolsheviks, the origins of the Hillwood collection, how the European {especially French} artistic styles influenced Russian culture and artistic taste from the 18th thru 20th centuries all of which reflects how MMP built and what treasures are in the Hillwood collections. The photos are large, clear and of excellent quality. Each object has an extensive description of everything known about it. Icons, ceramics, liturgical vestments ,gold, jewelled and enamelled boxes and watches, chalices, pictures, furniture, clocks a treasure trove of wonderful things. This is a book to enjoy and savor over and over and I give it a 5 star rating Highly Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Unique and Wonderful Production: By John Silence is GoldenA collector of art doesn't necessarily have and can't buy artistic taste and sensibility no matter how much money he/she may have. Marjorie Merriweather Post { MMP, 1887-1973 } heiress to the Post Cereal {later General Foods} Fortune including marriages { out of 4 } to millionaire stockbroker E.F. 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Book by Odom, Anne, Arend, Liana Paredes

From Library Journal The Hillwood Museum in Washington houses the Russian Imperial and European art collected by Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post, an accomplished businesswoman and passionate connoisseur. The collection is unique in the United States and probably in the world outside Russia and was started when Post accompanied her husband, Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, to Russia in 1937-38. Excellent photographs convey the beauty of the house and the splendor with which it was decorated. The collection contains pieces in every artistic medium?porcelain, landscape paintings, portraits, furniture, gold and silver objects, crystal, enamel boxes, and more?and each piece is a work of the highest quality and so arranged that one understands the full range of Russian Imperial achievement in the visual arts. This volume should be included in every library where works on Russian art and culture are

