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Guggenheim Family

Words count:898

The Guggenheim Family, globally recognized as one of the wealthiest and most powerful family in the 19th century. Besides having been praised and respected for their commercial success. In return to the society, they have offer part of their fortune to contribute the some of the most important benefits for humankind, acknowledged for supporting fields of aviation developments, rockets research and modern art.

The tale of the family started in Switzerland, where Mayer Guggenheim (1828-1905) was born. Saving up from 60 years of his career as a tailor's trade, he had obtained enough money to purchase mining sites in Colorado, at the center of United States, consequently Colorado Smelting and Refining Company was founded in 1891. After eight years of hard work, through his immense sagacity and determinations, he finally built up a fortune for under his name. In 1901 he had taken over most of America's metal mining and smelting companies, Mayer's America Smelting and Refining Company became one of the largest mining and smelting empire, Controlling over the entire Copper industry.

Mayer's achievements, ambitions and his wills blatantly have passed on to the next generations of the Guggenheim family. The most recognizable members of the family, were those who were not only achieved the affluence aspects of their success, but also have created positive social impacts on humanity. Using their wealth and power, promoting non-profit organizations that support liberal and art works. They were including; Mayer's second son Daniel Guggenheim (1856-1930), fifth son

Solomon Guggenheim (1861-1949), Working along his father; Daniel Guggenheim's son Harry Frank Guggenheim (1890-1971) and daughter of Mayer's sixth son, Peggy Guggenheim (1898-1979).¹

Not only Daniel Guggenheim was credited for being essentially, in charge of managing his father's empire. Daniel and his wife Florence corporately, established the Daniel and Florence Foundation (1924) for charity purposes. Daniel and his son Harry together, have established Daniel Guggenheim Fund In 1926 to financially support the development of aeronautical works and aviation technologies, targeting to increase the capabilities, safety and performance of aviation. Support from the foundation resulted in development of further advance aeronautical education, allowing further commercial aircraft to be developed, improving aircraft equipment and moving towards economically and socially applications of aeronautics. The foundation was ended in 1929 when it's objectives was met, meanwhile, Daniel and Florence foundation keep proceeding, sponsoring the research on rockets and space flights of Robert Goddard. Allowing humanity in accomplishment of exploring the outer space. The foundation was also supported the establishment of professorships at Princeton University for further academic improvements.²

Next up is Solomon Guggenheim, a confident businessman and a Philanthropist. After his financial success, in 1895 he settled down and gets married to his wife Irene Rothschild, with three daughters. Because of his wife's passion of leisure pursuing in the beauty of artwork. This led him to grow interest of artworks himself. So, he initially was collecting "old master" paintings, the classical artworks that were

¹ Jenifer Schuab. "Guggenheim Family (the)". *Learning To Give*. 5 February. 2012. <<http://learningtogive.org/papers/paper267.html>>

² Judy Rumerman. "Daniel and Harry Guggenheim-supporters of aviation technology". *U.S. Continental of Flight Commission*. 5 February 2012. <http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Evolution_of_Technology/guggenheim/Tech3.htm>

popular in 13th–17th century in Europe. Until 1926, Solomon came across a juvenile German artist Hilla Rebay who introduces him to rather, abstracts and modern style of artwork. Solomon seems to be truly intrigued by what this young man's can produce through his art skills, he then assist him to a Vasily Kandinsky's Dessau studio to work there, where he was then afterwards, bought a lot of paintings. Eventually he collected over 150 of Kandinsky's artworks. His fascination by abstract and non-objective art didn't stop there, later he auctioned most of his old master collections for proceed his devoting himself towards the innovative artwork in 1939(at that time).

During 1936-1937, while he was opening exhibition presenting and promote the appearance of modern artwork, he also founded Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in purpose of encouragement of the "new" art so it could be widely express in public and to be appreciated, supposedly abstractive artworks or non-objective paintings might have been rather bizarre and unusual for people during that time. The foundation also provides financial supports and scholarships. On May 31, 1939, Solomon teamed up with and Rebay established the Museum of Non-Objective Paintings at 24 East Fifty-fourth Street in New York City. Three years later after his death in 1949, the museum was given a new naming the "Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum", opened publically in 1959.³ Later in 1969, Peggy Guggenheim, Solomon's granddaughter conductively added her own arts collection, to be shown at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. She also intentionally donated her artworks and palace to Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.⁴

Without doubt, Guggenheim family has played the most crucial and important

³ Michael Boyan. "Guggenheim, Solomon R. Biography". *Pennsylvania Center of the Book*. 6 February 2012. <http://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/palitmap/bios/Guggenheim__Solomon.html>

⁴ Peggy Guggenheim Collection Contributors, "Peggy Guggenheim". *Peggy Guggenheim collection*. 6 February 2012.<<http://www.guggenheim-venice.it/inglese/museum/peggy.html>>

parts in contributing to humankind in the human history, without the work of Daniel and Harry Guggenheim. We may have yet to developed military air force or commercial airplane that we travel by nowadays. Without Daniel and Florence foundation funding towards rockets research, the success of exploring outer space for human kind would have been delayed. This world would have been a devoid of modern arts without the support from Solomon and his grand daughter Peggy Guggenheim.