



Jacques Henri Lartigue, Photographer

By Vicki Goldberg

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Jacques-Henri Lartigue (1894-1986) is a central figure of importance in the history of photography. "An amateur graced with genius for forms", at the age of 12 he was already producing photographs capturing the carefree antics of his eccentric family and friends. It was in these early years that he developed a fascination for the subjects that concerned him throughout his life: the immensity of the world to a child; the seaside; women of fashion; and above all, movement -from people walking or jumping, to flying machines and motor cars. Lartigue's photographic work was little-known until the 1960s, which gave him a unique freedom to create images for himself alone, unfettered by the criticism of others. His images evoke the sparkle of a long-gone era, documenting an idyllic world of ladies with parasols and gravity-defying hats; people flying kites or strolling in the park, on bicycles and at the races. This book offers an illustrated tribute to this photographer.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

When French photographer Jacques Henri Lartigue (1894-1986) was eight, his father gave him a camera. This monograph displays the enchanting images taken by the youthful photographer during the first three decades of the 20th century. Here, 126 striking duotone pictures, with captions by Lartigue himself, portray his privileged lifestyle with family, friends, and the leisure class, including remarkable shots of fashionable women of the belle époque. Fascinated by movement, Lartigue captured people, objects suspended in space, early attempts at aviation and motoring, and athletes pushing the limits of endurance in images containing a carefree exuberance almost unrivaled in photography. Personal tragedies and a world at war are noticeably absent. A short but relevant introduction by Vicki Goldberg, the New York Times photography critic, as well as a chronology and exhibition list complete this delightful dip into the past. A Joan Levin, MLS, Chicago Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Jacques Henri Lartigue, Photographer is beautiful: the black-and-white prints have been gorgeously reproduced, giving this volume more the feel of a portfolio than a book. -- *The New York Times Book Review*, Andrea Barnet

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Kelley:

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