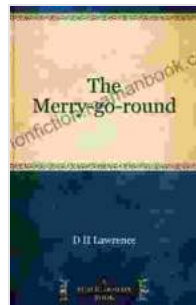


The Merry-Go-Round in Lawrence, Kansas: A Historical and Cultural Landmark

Nestled amidst the vibrant downtown district of Lawrence, Kansas, stands a magnificent and beloved landmark that has captured the hearts and imaginations of generations: The Merry-Go-Round.

This iconic carousel, known locally as "The Merry," has been a beloved gathering place for over a century, serving as a hub for community events, family outings, and countless childhood memories.



The Merry-go-round by D H Lawrence

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Built in 1922 by the Allan Herschell Company, The Merry is one of the few remaining hand-carved, hand-painted merry-go-rounds in the United States.

Its intricate and colorful artistry, boasting 48 unique animals and chariots, transports visitors to a bygone era of enchantment and whimsical wonder.

A Historic Legacy

The Merry-Go-Round has witnessed countless chapters in Lawrence's history.

Originally located in the city's East Lawrence neighborhood, it was moved to its current downtown site in 1947 to avoid demolition.

In 1987, The Merry was designated as a National Historic Landmark, a testament to its exceptional architectural and cultural significance.

This recognition underscores its role as a symbol of Lawrence's heritage and a treasure to be preserved for future generations.

Architectural Marvel

The Merry-Go-Round is a masterpiece of engineering and artistry.

Its 44-foot diameter platform is supported by a massive oak frame, while its graceful canopy, adorned with twinkling lights, creates an air of enchantment.

Each of the 48 animals and chariots is a unique work of art, hand-carved from poplar wood and painted with vibrant colors and intricate details.

The carousel's menagerie includes majestic horses, prancing deer, whimsical elephants, regal giraffes, and even a spirited tiger.

Cultural Significance

Beyond its architectural splendor, The Merry holds profound cultural significance.

It has been a gathering place for Lawrence residents of all ages, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences.

Generations have climbed aboard its painted steeds, creating memories that span decades and generations.

The Merry has also served as a backdrop for countless civic events, including Lawrence's annual Old Settlers Day festival.

A Family Tradition

For many, a visit to The Merry is a beloved family tradition.

The carousel's gentle pace and captivating sights and sounds create a timeless experience that families can cherish together.

Parents and grandparents who once enjoyed The Merry as children can now share the same joy with their own children and grandchildren, creating a tangible connection to their own past and their children's future.

Educational Value

In addition to its historical and cultural significance, The Merry-Go-Round offers educational value.

Its intricate carvings and vibrant colors provide a glimpse into the artistry and craftsmanship of a bygone era.

The carousel's animals and chariots offer a chance to explore the diversity of the natural world and foster an appreciation for nature.

Preservation and Restoration

The preservation of The Merry-Go-Round has been a labor of love for the Lawrence community.

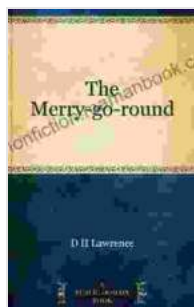
Over the years, the carousel has undergone several meticulous restorations to maintain its beauty and functionality.

These efforts have been supported by the city of Lawrence, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, and a dedicated group of volunteers who share a passion for preserving this historic gem.

The Merry-Go-Round in Lawrence, Kansas, is more than just an amusement ride; it is a cherished landmark that embodies the city's history, culture, and spirit.

Its architectural grandeur, historical significance, and enduring popularity make it a beloved destination for generations of Lawrence residents and visitors alike.

As a symbol of Lawrence's heritage and an enduring source of joy and entertainment, The Merry-Go-Round stands as a testament to the enduring power of community and the importance of preserving our cultural treasures.



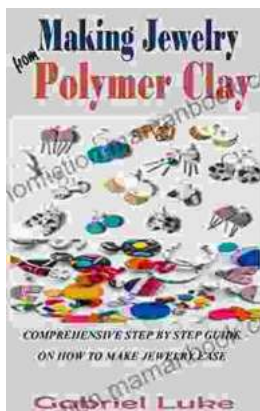
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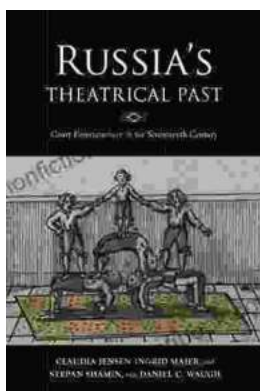
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