

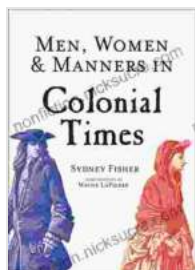
Men, Women, and Manners in Colonial Times: A Comprehensive Guide

In colonial America, manners played a crucial role in social interactions and were heavily influenced by the values and customs of the time. Men and women were expected to adhere to different sets of etiquette rules, reflecting the societal expectations and power dynamics of the era. This article delves into the intricate world of colonial etiquette, exploring the specific manners expected of men and women and their significance in shaping the social fabric of the time.

Men's Manners and Social Etiquette

For men in colonial society, adherence to proper manners was considered a reflection of their character and social standing. They were expected to

exhibit qualities such as:



Men, Women & Manners in Colonial Times

by Sydney George Fisher

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 408 pages
Lending : Enabled



- **Respectfulness:** Men were expected to treat all individuals with respect, regardless of their social status or gender.
- **Courtesy:** 紳士们应该表现得亲切和礼貌，对他人表示关心和体贴。

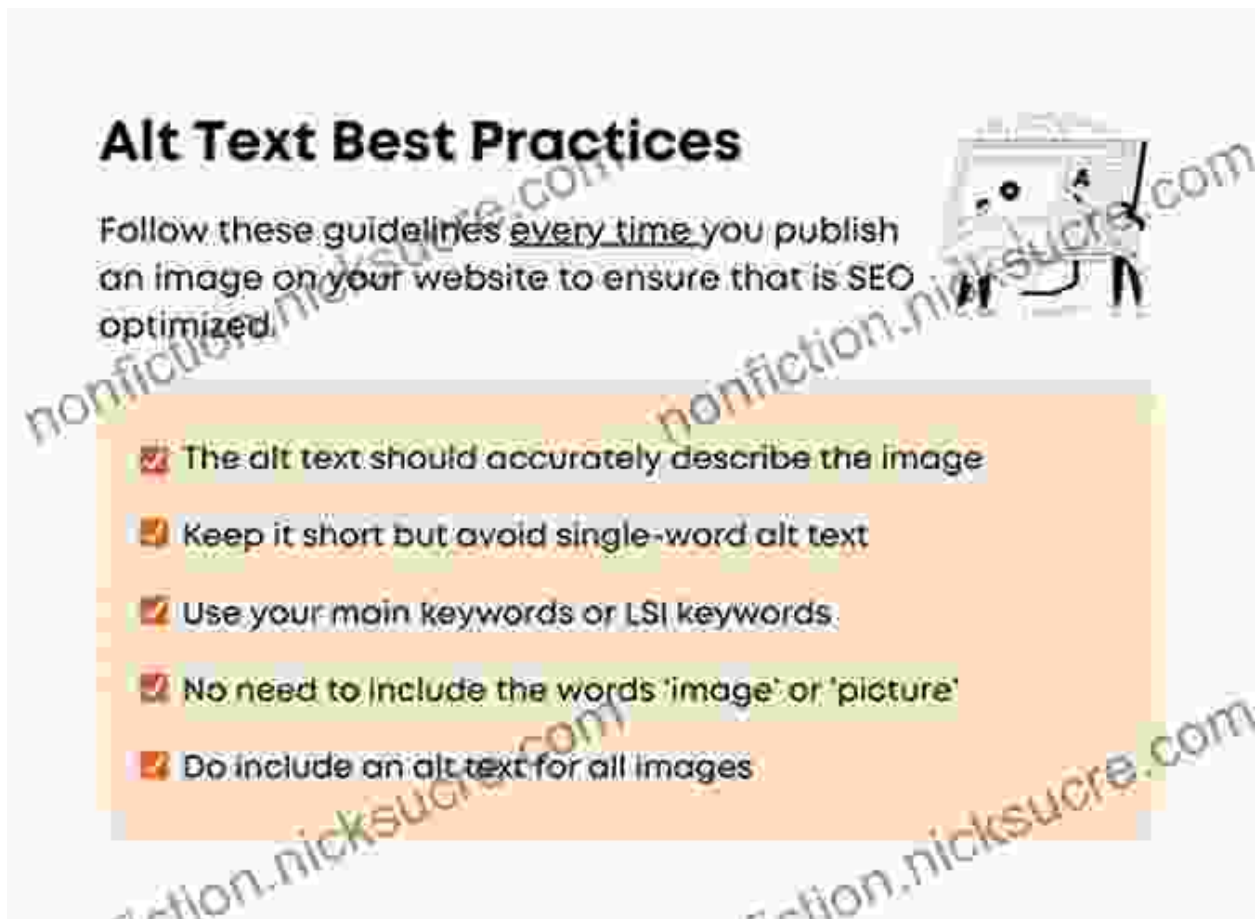
li>**Honesty:** Men were expected to be truthful and trustworthy in their dealings with others.

- **Courage:** Men were expected to display bravery and courage in the face of adversity.
- **Honor:** Men were expected to uphold their honor and reputation, demonstrating fairness and integrity.

In social settings, men were expected to follow specific rules of etiquette. These included:

- **Hats off indoors:** Men were required to remove their hats when entering a building as a sign of respect.
- **Stand when a woman enters:** Men were expected to stand up when a woman entered a room.
- **Offer a seat to women:** Men were expected to offer their seats to women in public places.

- **Escort women outdoors:** Men were expected to escort women outdoors, offering them their arm for support.
- **Respect women's space:** Men were expected to maintain a respectful distance from women in public and avoid touching them without their consent.



Women's Manners and Social Etiquette

For women, manners played an equally important role in defining their social status and reputation. They were taught from a young age to exhibit

the following virtues:



- **Modesty:** Women were expected to be humble and avoid drawing attention to themselves.
- **Purity:** Women were expected to maintain their chastity and reputation before marriage.
- **Obedience:** Women were expected to obey their fathers and husbands.
- **Domesticity:** Women were expected to be skilled in household tasks such as cooking, sewing, and childcare.

- **Piety:** Women were expected to be devout and attend religious services regularly.

In social settings, women were expected to adhere to specific rules of etiquette. These included:

- **Curtsy in greeting:** Women were expected to curtsy to men and other women as a sign of respect.
- **Speak softly and demurely:** Women were expected to speak in a soft and modest voice, avoiding vulgarity or loud laughter.
- **Avoid public displays of affection:** Women were expected to maintain a reserved demeanor and avoid public displays of affection with men.
- **Dress appropriately:** Women were expected to dress modestly and avoid revealing clothing.
- **Supervise children:** Women were expected to closely supervise their children in public and ensure their good behavior.

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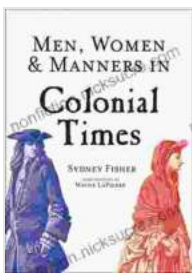
Social Hierarchy and Power Dynamics

The manners and etiquette expected of men and women in colonial times were deeply intertwined with the social hierarchy and power dynamics of the era. Men were generally considered superior to women, and this was reflected in the social expectations and rules of etiquette. For example, men were given precedence over women in most situations, and women were expected to defer to their husbands or fathers.

However, it is important to note that these social norms were not always strictly adhered to, and there were instances of women challenging the established gender roles. Some women, such as Anne Bradstreet and

Mercy Otis Warren, became prominent writers and intellectuals, despite the limited opportunities available to women in colonial society.

The manners and etiquette expected of men and women in colonial times provide a fascinating glimpse into the values and social norms of the era. These rules of conduct shaped social interactions and reinforced the existing social hierarchy. While these expectations may seem restrictive by today's standards, they played a significant role in maintaining order and stability in colonial society.



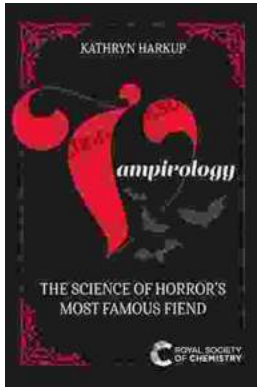
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