Generations of Giving: The History of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation

BY BARRY M. GOLDENBERG

It is often said that philanthropy in the United States is a unique phenomenon, woven into the fabric of society and the individual conscience in ways distinct to the American experience. Considering the particular role that philanthropy has played over the course of the twentieth century and still today, Generations of Giving is the inaugural account chronicling the elaborate history of one of America's oldest philanthropic organizations—and perhaps one of the few that has remained family-led and guided by the same principles in which it was founded a century ago.

When David Low Dodge, tracing his roots back to the American colonies in the early 1600s, opened up his first family-owned store in 1802, he never would have known that he would begin a long line of successful Dodge businessmen and generous philanthropists that would define the Dodge family for centuries to come. Through lucid prose and an amplified focus on philanthropic activities, Generations of Giving, in part, follows the lives of the individuals who first created a Dodge family legacy and inspired Cleveland H. Dodge to establish his namesake Foundation in 1917 in the midst of the Great War.

On the heels of the Foundation's 100th anniversary and now more than five generations removed from the days of Cleveland H. Dodge, this book also documents with meticulous detail the ebbs and flows—the growth, the changes, the philosophies—of a family-run philanthropy.

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Barry M. Goldenberg is a Ph.D. Candidate in History and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and a Research Fellow at the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME). He founded and previously directed Youth Historians in Harlem, an after-school youth history program in Harlem, New York, where he collaborated with young people to research the history of their local community. An avid writer, Goldenberg has been published widely in various academic journals, and currently resides in Los Angeles, California.