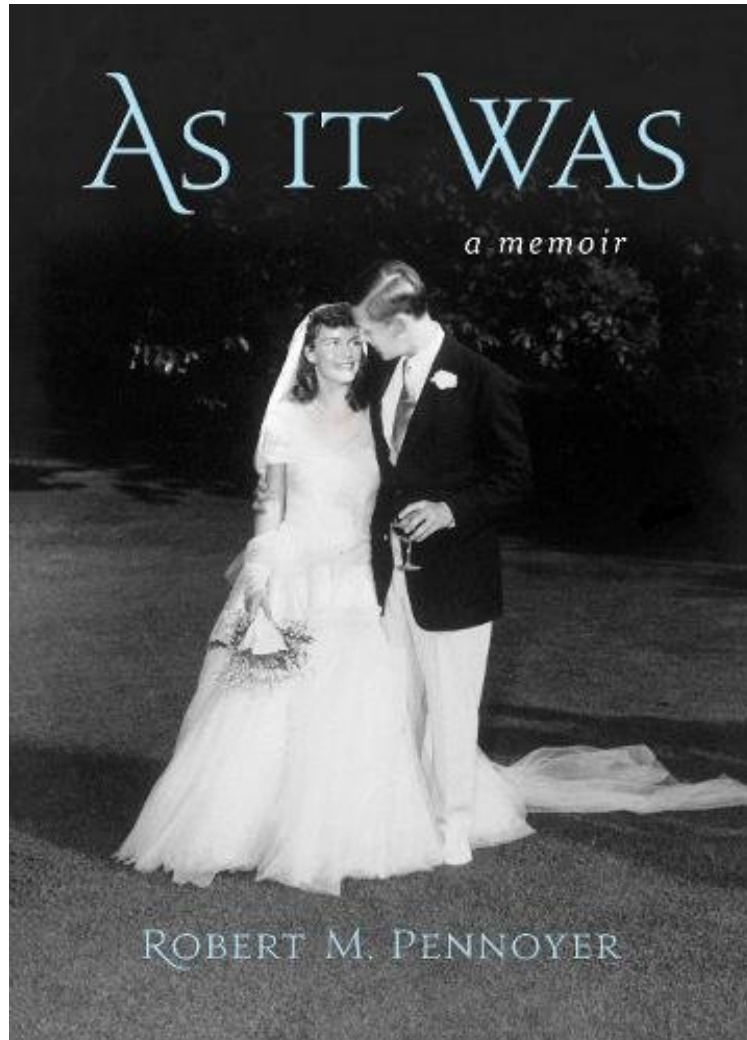


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## As It Was: A Memoir

*Robert M. Pennoyer*

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**Robert M. Pennoyer : As It Was: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised As It Was: A Memoir:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A gem, not a vanity memoirBy Reader From BostonA surprisingly wonderful memoir from an extraordinary gentleman. Thoughtful, personal, immediate, suffused with the values of the best of his tribe and his generation. I felt like I really knew the author when I finished his book, and I was left wishing I did.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating long personal story.By pianomacA fascinating long personal story. The author must be now about 90 years old. His great-grandfather was Pierpont Morgan, so he was brought up in a family of great wealth and importance. He himself was, it seems, a highly able lawyer, involved in many important affairs of state in the US. Considering today's political climate, the story of his transformation from

the Republican attitudes of his family to, apparently over the past ten years, a supporter of the Democratic party is highly interesting. Clearly he was an Eisenhower Republican, and if the Republicans are going to lose thoughtful and highly competent people like him, this can be important. However; as a story, strongly recommended!!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An honor all the way around.By Biggest FanOne of the most touching and gratifying memoirs I've read in a v long time.My tribe, illuminated with level headed honesty and a great sense of honor. I was delighted to find this book, delighted to find a reflection of our own family/tribal values and even more delighted to be able to recommend it to you all. If you were graced with such a family it will be a familiar and gratifying treat. If you were not, there is even more reason to read this and know that this kind of truly decent behavior is possible in this day and age; and, as we can clearly see, becomes its own reward.

Robert M. Pennoyer was born into a storied family - his maternal grandfather was the legendary J. P. Morgan. His irresistible memoir traces his sheltered childhood on the Gold Coast of Long Island; an adolescence overshadowed by the gathering clouds of World War II; and a young adulthood that survived one of the decisive engagements of the Pacific Theater - Iwo Jima. The author gives us as well a heartwarming account of a romance that blossomed into a lifelong matrimonial partnership and a close family life, tested nonetheless by crisis. And he chronicles a distinguished career, the early part of which was spent in the service of President Eisenhower and the latter part in private law practice and pro bono work. As *It Was* begins in an era of unprecedented wealth and privilege for some and great misery and poverty for others, - one that Mark Twain lampooned as the Gilded Age, and ends, coming in effect full circle, in our own era of the One Per Cent, as the income chasm in America reopens. What divides these periods, and is so impressively portrayed here, is the rise of American Progressivism led by the two Roosevelts. Most importantly, this book is itself a demonstration of the values that boosted America on its path to greatness and for which no finer exemplar could be found than its author. It bespeaks a belief in democracy that is passionate and unshakable, and builds on a deep appreciation of the institutions that enable it. The spirit that flows through these pages may be modest, but it is also filled with an irrepressible optimism and a faith in simple values that are both uplifting and marvelously contagious. As *It Was* is a lesson in a life well lived, and a tonic for dark and troubled times.-- Scott Horton, author of *Lords of Secrecy: The National Security Elite and Americas Stealth Warfare* (2015), contributing editor, *Harpers Magazine*.

About the AuthorRobert M. Pennoyer attended St. Paul's School and Harvard College. During World War II he saw action in the Pacific as a young Naval officer. After graduation from Columbia Law School, he became, successively, a Federal prosecutor, and a counsel in the Office of the Secretary of Defense during the Eisenhower years. In 1958 he returned to private practice in New York, joining a small firm, Patterson Belknap Webb, which he helped to build into one of the leading firms in the country. For many years he served as counsel to the Rockefeller foundation. Committed to public service, Pennoyer founded a halfway house for men emerging from prison, and over the years served as a trustee of Columbia University, Union Theological Seminary, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and, for half a century each, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Morgan Library. In the 1970s, under his leadership as president, the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation established, at the suggestion of his poet wife, Victoria Parsons Pennoyer, the prestigious Whiting Writers Awards. He lives on Manhattans Upper East Side and, at the age of 90, still goes to the office every day.