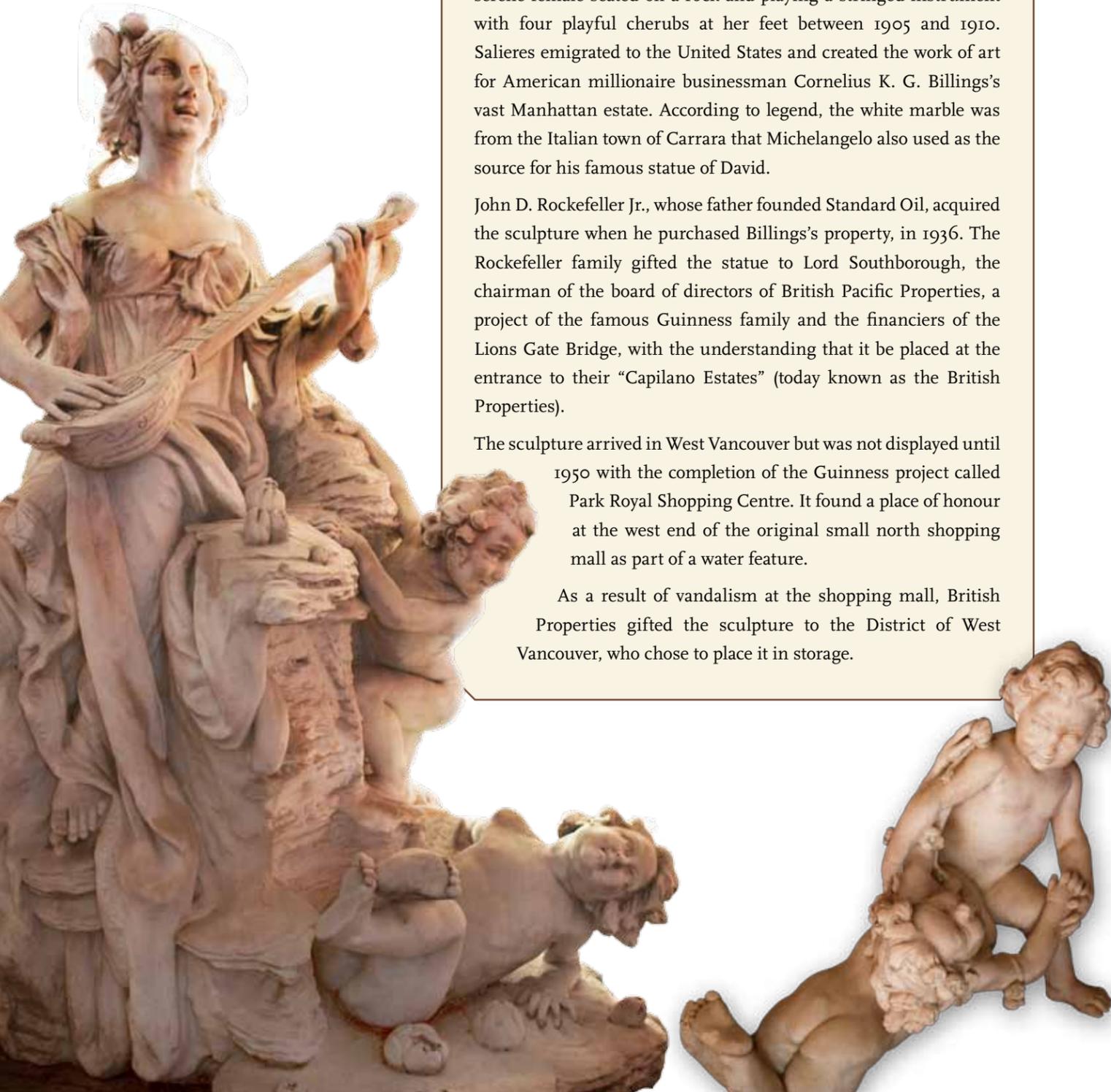


A muse strums a lute, while four playful cherubs frolic at her feet. This sculpture, made of Carrara marble, is from the same quarry from which Michelangelo carved the famous David. The sculpture was on display at the Park Royal Shopping Centre for several years but because of vandalism has been in storage at the West Vancouver work yards for the past 20 years.



## The Salieres Sculpture

by Norma L. Young  
fine arts appraiser

The beautiful 9-foot-tall marble sculpture represents Music, as a serene female seated on a rock plays a stringed instrument with four playful cherubs at her feet.

Sylvain Salieres, a French sculptor, carved this beautiful 9-foot-tall serene female seated on a rock and playing a stringed instrument with four playful cherubs at her feet between 1905 and 1910. Salieres emigrated to the United States and created the work of art for American millionaire businessman Cornelius K. G. Billings's vast Manhattan estate. According to legend, the white marble was from the Italian town of Carrara that Michelangelo also used as the source for his famous statue of David.

John D. Rockefeller Jr., whose father founded Standard Oil, acquired the sculpture when he purchased Billings's property, in 1936. The Rockefeller family gifted the statue to Lord Southborough, the chairman of the board of directors of British Pacific Properties, a project of the famous Guinness family and the financiers of the Lions Gate Bridge, with the understanding that it be placed at the entrance to their "Capilano Estates" (today known as the British Properties).

The sculpture arrived in West Vancouver but was not displayed until 1950 with the completion of the Guinness project called Park Royal Shopping Centre. It found a place of honour at the west end of the original small north shopping mall as part of a water feature.

As a result of vandalism at the shopping mall, British Properties gifted the sculpture to the District of West Vancouver, who chose to place it in storage.

afterwards be dropped into their native land to spy for the Allied forces. Taylor's children would later never talk about their father's involvement with Stephenson, as they had been sworn to secrecy. They, like the other 750 Canadians working out of the Rockefeller Center, all were, like their boss, "Quiet Canadians."

Taylor died in New York in 1945 at the age of 57. In compliance with a request he had made from his deathbed, he was cremated, and friends scattered his ashes from the Lions Gate Bridge. The British Pacific Properties Company remains active with development in West Vancouver to this day.

King George VI's official portrait taken in 1939 is proudly displayed in the Bessborough Armoury.

The King and Queen had visited Canada on a Dominion tour the previous summer. With the abdication of his older brother, King Edward VIII, (later the Duke of Windsor) the shy and modest "Bertie" was crowned just as his country faced the onslaught of World War II. In 1947 he visited India and gave it back its independence. King George VI died from cancer in 1952, when his daughter Elizabeth became Queen.



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