

NOVEMBER 2018

HERITAGE is the newsletter for Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, Inc., a historic house museum dedicated to the restoration of the Pabst Mansion and the preservation of the Pabst family legacy.

OFFICERS

Chair - Adam Christian
Vice-Chair - Wendy Burke
2nd Vice Chair - Charles G. Vogel
Treasurer - Anthony Franda
Secretary - James Pabst

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raquel Filmanowicz
Michael Flockhart
June Moberly
August U. Pabst, Jr.
Eugénie B. Pabst
Richard Schmidt
Jan Wade
Charles F. Wright, Jr.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Dr. Curtis L. Carter
Barbara Elsner
Virginia Horne

STAFF

President
Pamela Williams-Lime

Executive Director
John C. Eastberg

Curator
Jodi Rich-Bartz

Director of Guest Experience
Gary K. Strothmann

Archivist
Jocelyn Slocum

FOUNDER

Florence L. Schroeder

An Exceptional Still Life Returns to the Pabst Mansion

BY JOHN C. EASTBERG

I remember the very first time I saw the stunning still life painted by Austrian artist, Camilla Friedlaender. It was in the entry hall of the home of Elsbeth Pabst's son and his wife in Newport Beach, California, twenty years ago this summer. The painting had traveled far and wide since the art collection of Captain and Mrs. Pabst had been divided among their heirs in 1907. Elsbeth was sixteen years old when she inherited the painting and was just about to depart for boarding school in Switzerland when it was removed from the wall where it had hung in the dining room. *Still Life with Armor* was one of a trio of paintings that surrounded a vitrine in the dining room, filled with precious bibelots that Mrs. Pabst had gathered over the years. Leaving the Pabst Mansion, the painting no doubt went into storage until Elsbeth created her own household after her marriage in 1915. Elsbeth lived in many parts of the country over her lifetime—Tuxedo Park, New York; Greenwich, Connecticut; Lake Tahoe and Santa Monica, California, and surely this painting was with her most of her life before it was passed to her son, Douglas Parmentier, Jr. Now the painting has passed to the next generation, to the three children of Douglas. They have decided that the painting should return to the Pabst Mansion and join the growing collection of original paintings acquired by the Pabsts in the 1890s.

Still Life with Armor is rich and exceptional in its detailing. Painted on wood panel, the image has an almost jewel-like tone. While depicting a piece of armor, abalone shell and peacock feather on one side of the composition, the artist's true achievement is the rendering of a covered Japanese Satsuma jar and a hand-blown glass goblet, holding a sprig of flowers, set upon a book, all of which is resting on a finely depicted Middle Eastern textile. While meticulously executed, little is known about this talented artist. Friedlaender was born in Vienna, Austria

continued on page 7



Camilla Friedlaender's *Still Life with Armor* and the period frame that has been recently selected for it by Lowy Antique Frames of New York City.

A Picture Perfect 25 Years

This September marked my twenty-fifth year with the Pabst Mansion organization. Achieving such an important career milestone has meant a great deal of reflection on the ways the Mansion has changed and what endures. There are many bright spots as I reflect on twenty-five years of meeting inspiring people, our fascinating restorations and thrilling discoveries.

When I joined the Pabst Mansion in 1993, the organization was in its infancy and we truly understood very little about Captain Pabst’s family, who they were, and even what they looked like. Our archives contained two photographs of Captain Pabst, one of Mrs. Pabst, one of their daughter Elizabeth and one of their granddaughter Elsbeth. That was it. Initially, I thought that like many Victorians, the Pabsts were photographed far less frequently and maybe only had a few studio portraits done over their lifetimes. I could not have been more incorrect—the Pabst family, as it turned out, were enthusiastic patrons of photography. It has become very clear over these twenty-five years that Captain Pabst especially loved having his photo taken. The Captain posed with family, friends, at the brewery and even out for a horseback ride. This family photographic record dates back to the emerging popularization of photography in the 1850s.

Over the years, as I met Pabst family across the United States and in Germany, one of the first things I would ask them was, “Do you have any old photographs?” As many Pabst family members can attest, I am fairly persistent (some would say relentless) in my quest to see the family photo albums. Invariably there was the trip out to the garage, down to the basement, or to a hall closet to search for photos. The Pabst family has been incredibly accommodating to my ever-present requests and they have enjoyed the thrill of the hunt as well.

I have always considered the best part of my work at the Pabst Mansion being the friendships and the photographs that have gone hand in hand for a quarter of a century. The Pabst Mansion continues to be an important site for the Pabst family, for our community and as a tangible and visible link to our communal past. I look forward to celebrating the importance of this landmark, Milwaukee’s home, during my jubilee year. I hope you will visit us soon and add to the Pabst Mansion’s visual record with a few more photos of your own!

IN OTHER STAFF NEWS...

Join us in welcoming the newest member of the Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion team, **Pamela Williams-Lime**. Williams-Lime was selected to be the first President of the Pabst Mansion in August. She comes to the Mansion from her most recent position, President of The Trout Museum of Art in Appleton, WI.

Pamela has long been a visionary within the art and historical communities and maintains a passion for uniting communities through the organizations she serves. The Board of Directors of the Pabst Mansion created the position of President to assist with meeting the challenges and opportunities associated with the growing organization. Williams-Lime is excited to be part of the Milwaukee community and the Pabst Mansion.



BY JOHN C. EASTBERG



John C. Eastberg in 1994 and 2018

From the Archives
19th Century New Year’s Greetings

As we move into the Pabst Mansion’s holiday season, we are pleased to share this post-Christmas letter excerpt dating back to 1868 from the *Best-Pabst Family Papers, 1841-1887* [undated] collection. The following passage has been translated from *Kurrent*, a German script that fell out of use by the early 20th century, written by Lisette Best Schandein [sister of Maria Best Pabst] to her parents, Phillip and Maria Best, and her brother Heinrich Best, in which she describes her family’s Christmas gifts.

Milwaukee January 4, 1868

Dear Parents and Heinrich a few days ago Emil [Schandein] and I wrote to you, have you received our letters? We are very happy that Emil’s mother Emma and Adolph visited you and spent the holidays with you. We have already received the letters and pictures from Emma as well as from Adolph, and tomorrow we will answer them. Now I will let you know what we got from the Christ child [In traditional German lore the Christ child delivered gifts].

Emil got a rug from me and I also made a piece of embroidery for his camp chair, gave him shoes, collars and suspenders. From Fritz [Captain Pabst] he got a gold watch chain, and from Louise [Schandein] a tobacco pouch. From Fritz and Maria [Pabst] I received a pair of beautifully embroidered shoes and a sewing box with music. When you open it, it begins to play. From Emil I got a clasp for my fur coat, a plantstand and two canaries. From Lenchen [Elizabeth Pabst], I got an embroidered little pillow to hang on the sofa backrest and Amanda sent me a pair of embroidered gloves. Our little Louise got a beautiful little chair of woven wicker and a bathtub from Emil. From me she got a little dress and from Fritz and Maria, a rubber doll and a little gold ring.

That is about it, for sure the Christ child was very good to us.

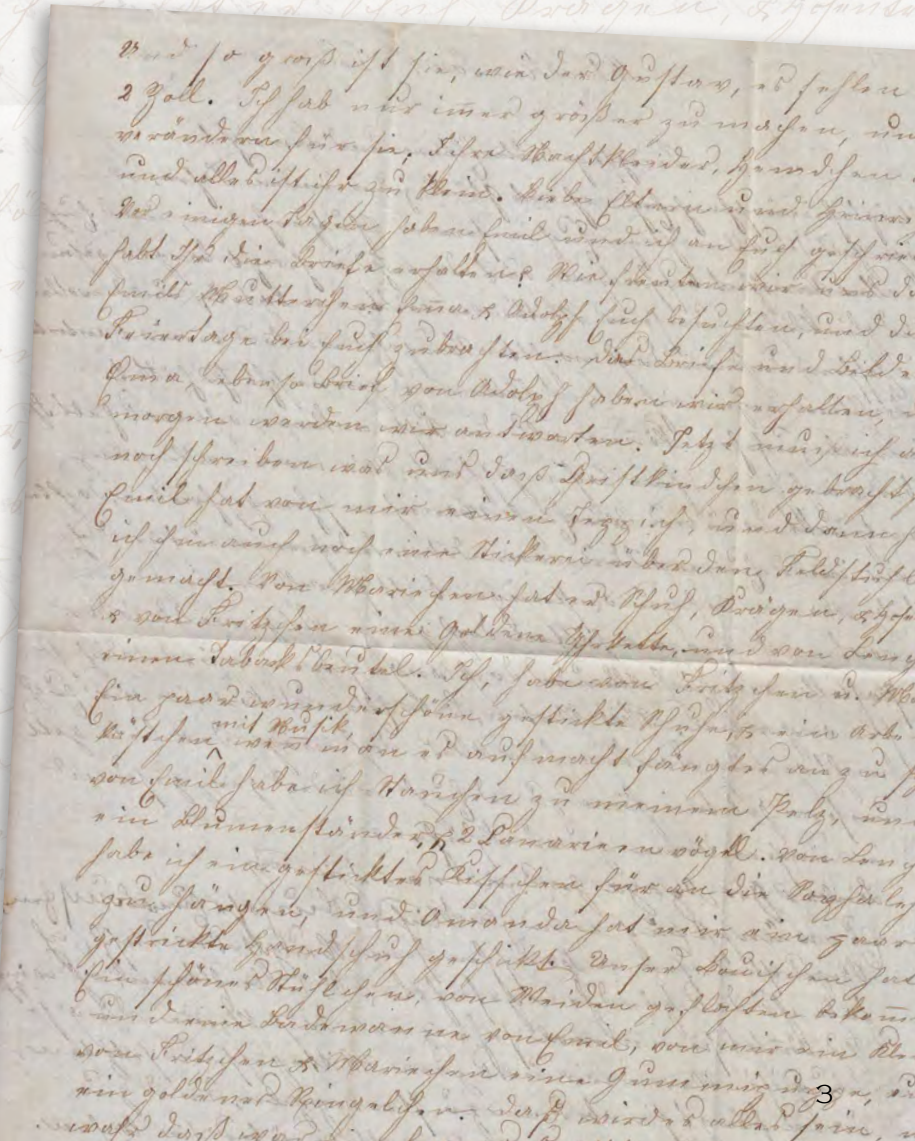
Many thousand kisses and greetings to you all from your loving daughter and sister, Lisette.

Translated by Gary Strothmann



Lisette Best Schandein, C.1870

Excerpt from a letter by Lisette Best Schandein to her parents and brother, January 1868





Christmas at the Pabst Mansion



With the falling leaves, all eyes at the Pabst Mansion turn to our holiday festivities. Visiting the Pabst Mansion at Christmastime to view the nearly two dozen elaborately decorated rooms has become a tradition for many residents in our local community. It might surprise you to know that many other *Christmas at the Pabst Mansion* activities available today have links to 19th century traditions. A few of the most well-known are listed here:

Christmas Tree

The tradition of the Christmas tree came from Germany, and there are some accounts of trees in America in the early 19th century, however the widespread popularity really took hold thanks to the husband of Queen Victoria, German-born Prince Albert, who installed a tree at Windsor Castle in 1841. After illustrations of the decorated tree appeared in British and American magazines it was not long until wealthy American families took to the custom in the 1850s.



Experience Christmas at the Pabst Mansion

November 16, 2018 - January 6, 2019

PREVIEW RECEPTION

November 15, 2018

6:00-7:30pm

Features live music, hors d'oeuvres, champagne and a silent auction

Members \$25 per person

Non-Members \$40

TWILIGHT TOURS

November 23, December 7 and 21, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

This evening open house grants access to the Mansion, and includes light refreshments and live music.

Adults \$15, Children (6-17) \$8

Under 6 free

Christmas Literature

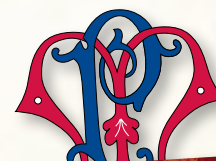
Arguably one of the most well-known pieces of Christmas literature in history, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, crossed the Atlantic Ocean and made its way to American readers in time for Christmas 1844. It proved extremely popular, and the take of Scrooge and the true meaning of Christmas has become an American favorite ever since.

DINNER AND A SHOW

Witness a local version of the classic tale by attending one of the Pabst Mansion's Dinner and a Show evenings. Enjoy a three-course meal surrounded by Pabst Mansion Christmas décor before being dropped door side at the historic Pabst Theater for the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's performance of *A Christmas Carol*. Tickets available for three performances on December 6, 14 and 15. Arrival for dinner at the Pabst Mansion begins at 5:00pm, with a 7:30pm performance at the theater. \$185 per person, reservations required.



Photo Courtesy of Milwaukee Repertory Theater



PABST MANSION

Yes! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A \$ _____ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PABST MANSION.

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE PABST MANSION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DONATION TO BE USED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE PLEASE SELECT FROM ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW:

☐ ENDOWMENT ☐ OPERATIONS ☐ RESTORATION

☐ COLLECTIONS ACQUISITION ☐ PLACE FUNDS WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS GIFT TO:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

YOUR KIND GIFT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PABST MANSION". THIS GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

Charitable Giving

Viewed by most historians today as a way to balance out the materialism of gift giving in the late 19th century, the 1880s saw a parallel rise in charity giving around Christmastime. In the minds of most Americans this symbolic act of selflessness was the perfect way to show love to one's community as the celebration of Christmas was meant to do. Relief to the poor, especially destitute women and children, was the largest area of charitable giving in the 19th century.

Today, this tradition of charitable giving during the holiday season continues. We hope the Pabst Mansion is on your list of worthy organizations to consider making a year-end donation to. Look for a year-end appeal to arrive soon showcasing all the ways your contribution will support our efforts!

For more information, to purchase tickets or make a reservation please call 414.931.0808, or visit pabstmansion.com



Christmas Cards and Gift Giving

The sending of Christmas cards began in America in the 1850s, but expanded in popularity starting in the 1870s. Seen as little works of art, so many Americans became interested in sending and receiving the cards a postal employee noted in 1882 "I thought last year would be the end of the Christmas card mania, but the business seems to be getting larger every year." Gift giving at Christmastime traditionally played a modest role in the decades prior to the 1870s, but with the rise of the American Gilded Age, so blossomed the idea of lavish gift giving in the 1880s. For the first time consumerism in gift giving took hold leading many Americans to purchase ready-made gifts in large quantities rather than more personal hand-made tokens.

The Pabst Mansion gift shop has many stocking stuffers available in the Pavilion shop or the online shop at pabstmansion.com. If you can't find the perfect item, gift of membership to the Pabst Mansion is sure to please anyone!

Many Thanks to

**All our decorators
and volunteers**

Christmas at the Pabst Mansion: Title Sponsor

BMO



Harris Bank

Media Sponsors:



90.7
wpr.org

SHOP LOCAL *Shop the Pabst!*

ORNAMENTS

A vast array of ornaments from traditional Christmas themes and birds to beer mugs and cheese. Prices from \$7.95-\$24.99



PABST BLUE RIBBON GEAR



Lovers of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer will find the familiar logo on many items available for purchase including assorted glassware, apparel, hats and koozies. Prices from \$2.50-\$29.95



MANSION MERCHANDISE

Unique gifts from your favorite house museum! Glassware, apparel, books and more featuring the popular Pabst Mansion logo. Prices from \$8.95-\$49.95



STOCKING STUFFERS

Some of our best-selling small items make wonderful stocking stuffers and office gift exchange presents! Great values \$.75- \$9.95



Exceptional Still Life

continued from page 1

in 1856 and rose to prominence as a self-taught artist by the early 1890s. She was so admired that she was invited to display a painting within the Austrian section of the Fine Art Display at the 1893 Columbian Exposition. This very well could have been where the Pabsts discovered her work, as we know they purchased several works from the Austrian section of the Fair. Even though she met artistic success, the Emperor of Austria had selected one of her paintings for his collection, she became a nun in 1901 and later died in Vienna in 1928 at the age of 71.

Now that the painting has arrived back in Milwaukee, we want to welcome it home in the best way possible. We are working with Lowy Antique Frames in New York City in order to procure a frame as close to the original as possible. They have indeed found an almost identical 1890s frame that matches the original, thanks in large part to the 1897 photographs of the Mansion's interior. Likewise, our favorite painting conservator, Keith Raddatz, will also clean and restore this gem so it will shine brightly within our magnificent dining room. These moments, when original objects and artwork return to the Pabst Mansion are indeed special and we are so appreciative to the Parmentier children for sharing this wonderful painting with us.

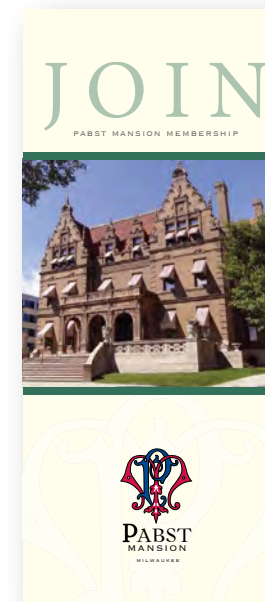
The Pabst Mansion's Volunteer Council has just announced that they are generously sponsoring both the cleaning and reframing of *Still Life with Armor* and we are so grateful for their ardent support of our restoration projects throughout the Mansion.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Give the gift of membership this holiday season! Your gift membership also contributes to the preservation and restoration of this historic Milwaukee landmark! Now through the holidays when you purchase a gift membership you will receive a gift from the Pabst Mansion (available for in-store and online purchases while supplies last).

Membership in the Pabst Mansion includes the following benefits:

- Allows for free admission to the Pabst Mansion, anytime of year
- 10% discount in the Pabst Mansion gift shop
- Subscription to our Heritage newsletter
- Invitations to special events, including our much-beloved Christmas Preview Reception
- Membership at the Pabst Grand Circle and Comet levels allow for renting the Pabst Mansion for your own private event at ½ the price—contact Jodi Rich-Bartz for more details on this great perk of membership!
- **NEW FEATURE OF MEMBERSHIP:** Join or renew at the Brewmaster level [\$125] or above and you will automatically be enrolled in NARM [North American Reciprocal Museum Association]. As a NARM member you will receive free or member admission rates, member discounts in gift shops and discounted tickets to concerts, lectures and events at over 1,000 participating museums.



MEMBERSHIP

*Yes, I want to be a member of
Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, Inc.!*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comet | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brewmaster | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Circle | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Ribbon | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beer Baron | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> First Mate | \$40 |

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

E-Mail

Please make checks out to Pabst Mansion. To pay securely by credit card, visit www.pabstmansion.com/shop

☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact me.

I am currently a member but would like to make an additional contribution to the Mansion. Enclosed is my contribution for \$

Detach and mail to: Pabst Mansion
2000 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233



CAPTAIN FREDERICK PABST MANSION, INC.
2000 WEST WISCONSIN AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53233-2043

414-931-0808
WWW.PABSTMANSION.COM

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Extra, Extra! Read More About It!

The Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion, an illustrated history by John C. Eastberg, is available online or in the Museum Shop for \$49.95.

- 9 x 12 hard bound book
- Over 270 pages
- 235 color images
- 150 historic photos



Volunteers



The Pabst Mansion always has a variety of volunteer openings including docents, museum shop, and events. If you would like to find out more about volunteering, call (414) 931-0808.

HOURS/ADMISSION

Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm • Sunday Noon-4pm

Tours at: 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3

Closed Wednesdays mid-Jan. - Feb.

Adults: \$12 • Seniors/Students/Military and Veterans: \$11

Children ages 6-17: \$7 • Under 6 years of age: Free

CHRISTMAS AT THE PABST MANSION

November 16, 2018 - January 6, 2019

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm • Sunday Noon-4pm

Last Entry 3:15pm daily

Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve 10am-2pm (last entry 1:15pm)

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day

Adults: \$12.50

Seniors/Students/Military and Veterans: \$11.50

Children (ages 13-17): \$8

Children 12 and under: Free

Prices and hours subject to change.

Located on 20th and Wisconsin Avenue.

Limited parking is available. Wheelchair accessible.