PABST MANSION
MILWAUKEE

HERITAGE

MARCH 2026

HERITAGE is the newsletter for Pabst Mansion, Inc., which preserves, shares, and interprets an iconic Milwaukee home that serves as a testament to the Gilded Age. Through immersive tours, educational opportunities, and programming, Pabst Mansion, Inc. brings visitors back in time to help understand the present, sharing the story of brewing, architecture, art, and culture through the lens of the Pabst family and its impact on Milwaukee.

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A Shared Eye for Beauty

The Richard H. Driehaus Collection at the Pabst Mansion

Art has long played a central role in how the Pabst Mansion communicates the taste, wealth, and perspective of the Pabst family. From the moment visitors step inside, paintings, sculptures, and decorative objects meld with the house to create an immersive environment shaped by intentional collecting. The collection today is largely comprised of pieces original to the Pabsts, a sizable number of additional works belonging to Emil Blatz, and various pieces which match the taste and period of the Pabsts' own collection. Recently, Pabst Mansion's art collection was expanded through the installation and long-term loan of thirteen select works from the private collection of Richard H. Driehaus (1942-2021).

With few exceptions, the Pabsts' personal collection was assembled in a tight timeframe of 1892-1897. This timing indicates that when purchasing works, they were buying with the newly constructed Pabst Mansion's bare surfaces in mind. The Pabst family's collection – the majority of which dates to the last quarter of the 19th century - includes paintings, sculptures, decorative objects, and furnishings intended to harmonize with the Mansion's ornate interiors. Themes they were partial to included genre painting, idealized female beauty, and marine scenes, a nod to Captain Pabst's first career on the Great Lakes. Their collection took shape through the artworks that personally resonated with

** Richard H. Driehaus*

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'Returning Home at Sunset' by Alfred Kowalski (1849-1915)

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them, the dealers with whom they collaborated, and their standing as prominent German immigrants.

For the Pabst and Blatz collections, many of these components were shared. Not only was there an overlap in the artists they collected – including Eduard von Grützner, Eugene Verboeckhoven, and Eugene von Blaas, but also scenes and themes depicted as well. The most striking example of this can be seen in two works by Alfred Kowalski (1849-1915). Blatz's *Returning Home at Sunset* and the Pabsts' *Cossack on Horseback* both depict winter equestrian scenes with the same tones of the setting sun.

While the similarities between Driehaus' collection and the Pabsts' is markedly narrower, echoes of the Pabst and Blatz collections are represented in several works owned by Driehaus, making it an authentic enhancement of the Pabst Mansion's current holdings.

Richard H. Driehaus was widely known as a successful Chicago investor, philanthropist, and collector with an appreciation for craftsmanship, historic design, and the arts. Having achieved enormous success in his investment career, in the early 1980s Driehaus established the Driehaus Foundation to support causes dear to his heart: the built environment, arts and culture, Chicago's working poor, and investigative journalism for government accountability. While publicly supporting art, architecture and design, privately he became a serial collector with a particular taste for nineteenth and early twentieth century European and American arts. Over decades, his collection swelled to include thousands upon thousands of pieces of fine and decorative art. Several of these are now housed in the Driehaus Museum in Chicago, which opened in 2008. Many more remarkable pieces, however, remained in storage.

As Driehaus desired to share his collection with the public, those managing it sought to find new homes for his treasures after his death. The pieces selected for the Pabst Mansion were specifically assessed for their stylistic harmony, subject matter, and period to determine their overall ability to blend with the Mansion's interiors and existing collections. Described as a "natural fit" by the Pabst Mansion's Director, the works featured here were chosen for how seamlessly they complement the Mansion's established style.

Several of the new artworks resemble existing pieces housed within the Mansion, with examples across mediums and subject matters. One instance which recalls several Mansion works is a painted porcelain plaque depicting a nymph with unbound flowing hair and a delicately slipping red dress by produced by KPM. The piece's rich tones, soft features, and close facial focus call to mind multiple works in the Pabst collection, most notably *Mignon* by Henri Gervex (1852-1929). The porcelain medium can also be seen throughout the Pabst Mansion, most notably on the decorative porcelain tabletop in Mrs. Pabst's Parlor. Of further note, the Pabsts owned numerous examples of KPM porcelain tableware and KPM ware currently graces the Mansion's dining room table and butler's pantry cabinets.

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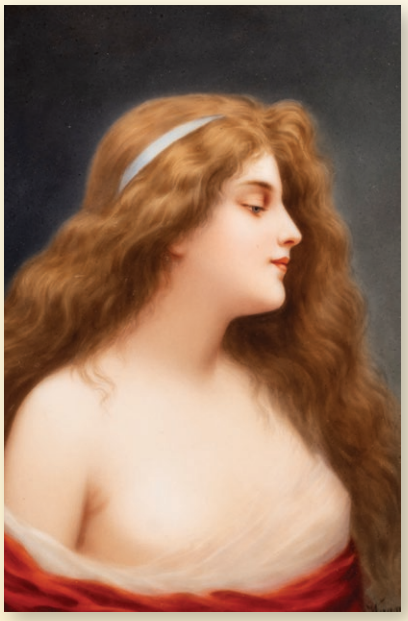
'Cossack on Horseback' by Alfred Kowalski (1849-1915)



**Nymph porcelain plaque by KPM*

'Mignon' by Henri Gervex (1852-1929)

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The Pabsts' *Still Life with Armor* by Camilla Friedlander (1856-1928) is complemented by the incoming *Still Life with Globe and Books on a Desk* by Caroline Friedrich (1828–1914). Each works are explorations of vanitas still lifes, with the respective vanities of wealth and honor, and those of learning serving as reminders that life and the pleasures it brings are ephemeral and cannot transcend death. Curiously, both works are by female artists, a rarity in both collections.

Similarities can also be seen in the quiet, domestic scene of a seated couple in the Pabst original *The Great Happiness* by Carl von Marr (1858-1936) and Driehaus collection paintings *Baby's Corner* by Francis John Wyburd (1826-1909) and *The Young Choir Singers* by Carl Konrad Julius Hertel (1837-1895). These charming genre paintings all convey the quiet joy of the mundane and the romanticism of everyday life.

While only a small sampling of the Mr. Driehaus' collection, this subset has allowed the Driehaus pieces to be interpreted as extensions of the Pabst Mansion's established collection rather than foreign additions. Together, these works illustrate the breadth of Mr. Driehaus' interests while reinforcing the Mansion's institutional commitment to upholding the Pabsts' historic collecting practices.

All art images by Michael Tropea.

Courtesy of Driehaus Enterprise Management, Inc.

**'Still Life with Globe and Books on a Desk' by Caroline Friedrich (1828-1914)*

**'The Young Choir Singers' by Carl Konrad Julius Hertel (1837-1895)*

'Still Life with Armor' by Camilla Friedlander (1856-1928)

'The Great Happiness' by Carl von Marr (1858-1936)

**'Baby's Corner' by Francis John Wyburd (1826-1909)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tickets: *Non-member: $200*
Member: $175

Behind Pabst Mansion's grandeur lies a pressing need; our beloved Mansion is in critical need of restoration. *A Toast to Time: Pabst, Present, & Future* supports our capital campaign dedicated to preserving the Mansion's roof, masonry, windows, porch, and building envelope to ensure it stands strong for generations to come.

Your support of this event, and our mission, enables restoration of one of Milwaukee's most iconic historic landmarks. Together, we can protect not just bricks and mortar, but the stories, legacy, and future of Pabst Mansion.

Join us as we raise a glass to the past, invest in the present, and build a future worthy of this extraordinary place.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Sundays & Fridays, May – September, 1:30pm

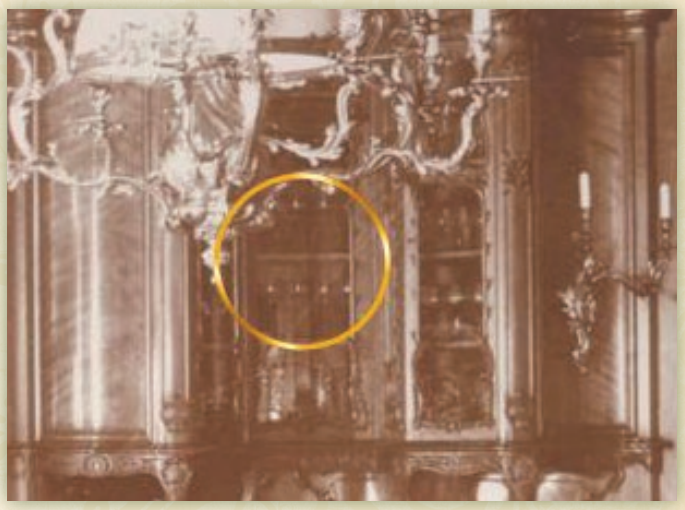
Tickets: *Adult: $32, Senior/Student/Military: $30, Child (6-17): $22, Members: $17*

Ever wonder what's beyond a classic Pabst Mansion tour? Here is your chance to explore the areas behind the ropes and closed doors. This in-depth look at the home, all the way from the basement to the attic, is for those who just want to see it all!

Please note this tour lasts approximately two hours and involves stairs, uneven floors, narrow doors, and constant standing/walking.

Roemers Return

Nine exquisite green glass Roemers with fine gold detailing have returned to the Pabst Mansion. A substantial set, as can just be made out in the photo to the right, once filled the cabinet in the dining room. Split amongst generations, this inherited portion was donated by Phil and Koshka Pabst in the summer of 2025. They can now again be found on the same cabinet shelf which housed them in the 1890s.



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

☐ Comet	$1,000
☐ Grand Circle	$500
☐ Beer Baron	$250
☐ Blue Ribbon	$125
☐ First Mate	$50
☐ Student	$25

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

Name _____

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

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

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CROSS STITCH SET

Delight in a moment of quiet creativity Mrs. Pabst style. The Bumble Bee Mini Cross Stitch Kit is a charming project well suited for beginners and seasoned crafters alike. Available in the Mansion's gift shop and online.

PABST MANSION
tours & admission

DAILY CLASSIC TOURS
(REGULAR SEASON)

GUIDED

Monday-Saturday 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm
Sunday 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

SELF-GUIDED

Daily noon-1pm

Adult: $19
Senior/Student/Military: $17
Child (6-17): $12 Child (5 and under): Free
Member: Free

Prices and hours subject to change.

SPECIALTY TOURS

The Pabst Mansion has an array of year-round and seasonal specialty tours.
Visit **pabstmansion.com** to learn more!

Located on 20th and Wisconsin Avenue.
Limited parking is available.
Wheelchair accessible.