FALL 2017 VOL. 50 NO. 3



PITTOCK PAPERS

THE WENNERBERGS: ANOTHER PORTLAND IMMIGRANT SUCCESS STORY

Pittock Mansion tells the story of immigrant Henry Pittock's rise to success. While the story of the Pittock family is the most prominent one told at Pittock Mansion, the stories of other early Portland residents are shared as well. Thanks to donations of artifacts from family descendants, the Mansion is able to offer a glimpse into the life and work of Daniel Wennerberg, a Portland cabinetmaker.

Daniel Wennerberg and his wife, Josephine, were first-generation Americans who emigrated separately from economically depressed Sweden. Daniel chose Portland because of its strong Swedish community, which provided support ranging from English classes to community dances. In Sweden, Daniel had studied furniture making at an industrial institute. Upon arriving in Portland in 1869, Daniel worked as a local cabinetmaker for several furniture companies, allowing him to build a comfortable life for himself and his family.



Josephine and Daniel Wennerberg circa 1880.

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PARTNERSHIP WITH OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND LEADS TO MUTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Pittock Mansion is continually seeking new and exciting ways to serve the local community. Earlier this year, the Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) reached out to us to inquire about a possible partnership to organize real work experience for a young man from Hillsboro named Jesus Ortiz. Through its Vocational Rehabilitation Program, OCB works to provide hands-on learning opportunities to visually impaired members of our community. Jesus became interested in Pittock Mansion when he learned about our volunteer opportunities and OCB hoped we had a role he could fill that would further develop his job skills.

When asked why he was attracted to working at Pittock Mansion, Jesus replied, "honestly, it was getting to work in an old place. I like old school history, with the Romans and Greeks and stuff like that, but because it was Portland based, hey, that'd be pretty cool." Ashley Morton, Jesus's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at OCB, said, "[Jesus] has an outgoing personality, so a docent position was a perfect fit." She continues: "After Jesus took a tour [at Pittock Mansion], he was excited. And it was a good match with [Pittock Mansion] staff personalities."

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SPECIAL TOURS & EVENTS



Hands-On Harp Demo

OCT. 20, OCT. 28, NOV. 4 & NOV. 5 1PM - 3PM

Discover the harp in a hands-on music experience with local harpist Misty Williams. Visitors will learn about different types of harps, listen to different harp techniques, and pluck the strings of a harp themselves!

FREE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION



Behind the Scenes Tours*

OCT. 28, NOV. 11 & FEB. 24 10AM, 11AM, 12PM, 1PM, 2PM & 3PM

See areas of the mansion not ordinarily open to the public including the original furnace room, the elevator machine room, and the third floor.

ADMISSION: MEMBERS \$7 NON-MEMBERS \$19



Holiday Music Series

NOV. 20 - DEC. 31 11:30AM - 1:30PM & 2PM - 4PM

Join us for live holiday music in the Music Room! Local volunteer musicians will play seasonal favorites to complement A Very Portland Christmas's festive decor.

FREE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION
BASED ON VOLUNTEER AVAILABILITY

*Prepayment and reservations are required. Call 503.823.3624.

EXHIBITS



Souvenir from an 1898 trip to Czech spa town Marienbad.

Explore Pittock Mansion decorated for the holidays!

Untold Stories of Pittock Mansion Treasures

ON VIEW THROUGH NOV. 12

Pittock Mansion has artifacts whose stories are rarely told: a punch bowl purchased as a souvenir from an 1898 trip to a Czech spa town, a toy swing Governor Tom McCall played with as a child, a still life painting by Oregon free spirit and activist C.E.S. Wood. In this exhibit, explore the histories of lesser-known—but equally compelling—objects.

A Very Portland Christmas

NOV. 20 - DEC. 31*

*CLOSED THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS DAY

Enjoy the wonders of the season at Pittock Mansion's annual holiday display, a Portland tradition for over 50 years. This year, experience the iconic places, people, and events of Portland—Powell's Books, Packy the elephant, and Peacock Lane—as they are incorporated into the decorative stylings of volunteers and professional designers who transform the Mansion into a holiday wonderland.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we mark 10 years since the Pittock Mansion Society assumed responsibility for daily museum operations, the progress we've made—thanks to your support—is clear. When I joined the staff at that time, the beauty of the house and the setting impressed me. I was captivated by the idea of helping steward the house and working with all of you to ensure we continue to share it with everyone.

On September 15, we had the pleasure of hosting the council from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust is the leading voice for the preservation of significant



Marta E. Bones Executive Director

places representing our country's diverse cultural experience, and the National Trust's council is made up of their key supporters. Their purpose is to help steward historic places and they travel all over the country to learn more about preservation.

As the council toured the Mansion, their comments fascinated me and reminded me of what it was like to experience Pittock Mansion for the first time. They said that the house is well-maintained and is surrounded by beautiful gardens. They also noticed that the architecture takes advantage of the views like no other historic home.

I enjoyed hearing the reactions of the individual council members, particularly since this group knows and appreciates historic homes and what it takes to care for them. As we bid farewell, I couldn't help feeling a sense of pride about the work we have done together to make Pittock Mansion such a compelling and valued place.

The last 10 years have been an incredible journey and I am proud to be part of such a dedicated community who values the preservation of architecture and history. And it is with an even greater sense of gratitude that I welcome the opportunity to continue our joint efforts to preserve and protect the Mansion for generations to come.

Thank you all for your support,



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The mission of Pittock
Mansion Society is to
inspire understanding
and stewardship of
Portland history through
Pittock Mansion, its
collections, and programs.

In 1964, spurred by the fundraising efforts of concerned citizens, the City of Portland bought Pittock Mansion, originally home to Portland pioneers Henry and Georgiana Pittock. Today, Pittock Mansion Society and Portland Parks & Recreation work in collaboration to operate and maintain the museum and the surrounding 46-acre park, which have been open to the public since 1965.

SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO GAVE SUPPORT MAY 16 - AUGUST 31, 2017

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PITTOCK MANSION SOCIETY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF RUNNING MUSEUM OPERATIONS







The Eastlake-style youth bed in the West Sleeping Porch (left) and the Renaissance Revival bed and bureau in the South Bedroom (right) were made by Daniel.

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THE WENNERBERGS: ANOTHER PORTLAND IMMIGRANT SUCCESS STORY

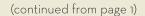
Josephine "Fina" Lindstrom, Daniel's future bride, first immigrated to Westport, Oregon. Upon arriving, she worked as a maid to pay off the cost of her passage to the United States. According to her granddaughter Karen Atiyeh, Josephine was lonely in Westport and moved to Portland where she eventually worked for the prosperous Corbett family. When Daniel and Josephine married, the Corbetts gave the couple two vases and a Seth Thomas clock as wedding gifts. The Wennerbergs lived and raised their family in a house built in 1882 near where Lincoln High School stands today.

Pittock Mansion has pieces made by Daniel currently on display including an Eastlake-style youth bed and a Renaissance Revival bed and bureau. The youth bed, made for Daniel's son in 1895, is displayed in the West Sleeping Porch where the Pittock grandchildren slept, alongside a child's bed donated by Pittock descendants. The walnut Renaissance Revival bed and bureau displayed in the South Bedroom highlight Daniel's skills at their finest, featuring burl insets as well as finely carved columns, pediments, and urn finials. Other Wennerberg artifacts in the collection—an office chair, secretary, "what-not shelf," medal, and period clothing—demonstrate the comfortable middle-class life the Wennerbergs enjoyed.

The secretary and office chair currently on display in the Writing Room-although not made by Daniel-were purchased by him. He chose the Renaissance Revival secretary as an inspirational example of fine craftsmanship. The office chair was made by the Heywood Brothers furniture company, specialists in wicker and rattan furnishings, and features a cane back and seat as well as metal springs allowing it to rock.

The "what-not shelf" is attributed to Daniel because the Eastlake style and craftsmanship are similar to that of the youth bed he made. Originally, it had a silk ball fringe around the bottom shelf, and still shows tack marks where the fringe was attached. The medal commemorates an 1866 Swedish industrial arts exhibition. It features the profile of the future king of Sweden, Oscar II, and an engraving of the exhibition's main building. The period clothing belonged to Josephine and includes a highnecked black silk cape typical of the late 1890s, an embroidered silk bag, and a silk scarf.

These artifacts provide insight not only into the success and middle-class stability the Wennerbergs achieved in their new home, but also insight into the lives of local craftsmen who lived, worked, and created in early Portland.

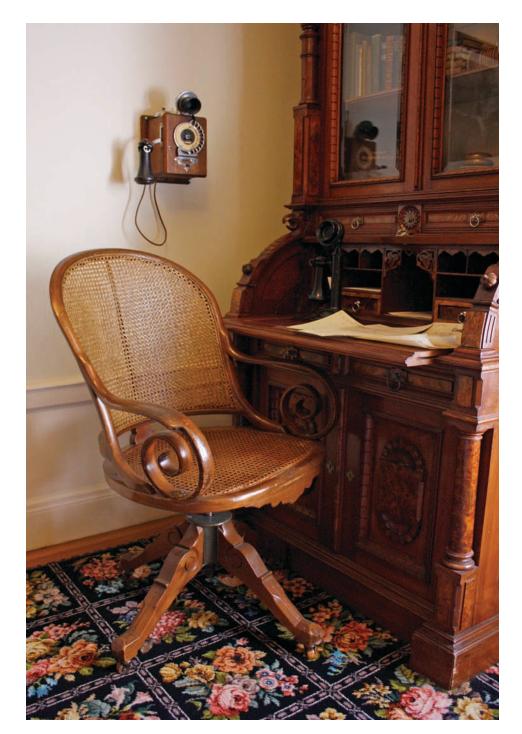


PARTNERSHIP WITH OCB LEADS TO MUTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

To further develop his skills in customer service, learning and presenting information, and facilitating learning experiences, Jesus's duties at Pittock Mansion included welcoming guests, answering questions, assisting with the 1914 elevator, and presenting our Hands-On History artifact cart, which invites guests to learn about the Mansion's architecture through touch. Jesus says "[the] artifact cart is cool because I get to tell people about the artifacts, but then hosting is cool because I do get to walk around and talk to all the different people when they come in, or are in different stages in the house." Jesus, not able to see visitors' facial expressions or body language, learned to read the tone in their voices. How excited or curious they sounded told him how in depth to go with his explanations. Heather Fenn, our Museum Services Coordinator, said, "in my coming and going around the Mansion, I noticed [Jesus] making people see the Mansion differently.... The way he translates that to guests is really interesting to watch and [the guests'] reaction to it was really positive."

Jesus also embraced educating visitors about being visually impaired. "I feel like if I don't educate people they are going to assume things, or they're just going to take things they hear from movies and that's all it is. They are usually too afraid to ask, but since I am pretty outgoing, it makes them very relaxed and want to ask questions.... I do love educating

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Above: The secretary and office chair in the Writing Room were purchased by Daniel. Below left: An 1866 Swedish industrial arts exhibition medal. Below right: The embroidered silk bag owned by Josephine. It is now on display in the West Dressing Room.







Pittock Mansion

3229 NW Pittock Drive Portland, OR 97210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Have You Moved?

Please contact Lara C. Miller to update your information. Imiller@pittockmansion.org 503.823,1651

Interested in Volunteering?

Please contact Kyla Foster kfoster@pittockmansion.org 503.823.3587

Follow us on





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Pittock Papers is a publication of Pittock Mansion Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, proudly serving the community since 1968.

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PARTNERSHIP WITH OCB LEADS TO MUTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

people, and that's one of the greatest parts about being blind is being able to educate people and show them the right way, tell them the way we think, and that way when they see other blind people they know we are approachable."

Jesus isn't the only one who grew from this experience–Pittock Mansion has benefited from Jesus's perspective, learning ways we can better engage visually impaired visitors. Suggestions included specialized tours emphasizing visual descriptions and the ability to touch select artifacts, tactile exercises where visitors create architectural shapes with LEGO® bricks or clay, and 3D replicas of historical photographs and paintings.

When asked what he loved about Pittock Mansion, Jesus said, "I put my hands on the marble



Jesus (left) educating visitors about a candlestick telephone on the Hands-On History artifact cart.

columns and stuff, and maybe you can't see them, but when you touch it you definitely feel scratches and dents in the marble. Little divots here and there. The elevator has a dent on the interior tin door, little scrapes and scratches and dents, it just tells you that this place has been through a lot and still made it through.... That's what makes it interesting, is the imperfections."