

HILLWOOD MANSION ROTATIONS

March 2023

To offer new perspectives on the collections and founder, Marjorie Merriweather Post, Hillwood features temporary changing displays in designated spaces throughout the mansion. These so-called mansion rotations offer visitors a dynamic opportunity to view an ever-changing assortment of objects such as textiles, silver, and dinner services.

This document provides an overview of where in the mansion the rotations occur and how we communicate those details with the volunteers.

Mansion Rotations

While most mansion rooms have static displays, there are several areas that routinely have object displays that change throughout the year. These changes provide added interest to the returning visitor, and the opportunity for the museum to showcase objects normally off-view or in storage, or in need of short display windows (like textiles that are sensitive to light).

Typically, the museum changes or “rotates” object displays in the following areas:

- **Dining & Breakfast Room** table displays of porcelain, glass, flatware, and dining textiles
- **Staff Dining Room** with a case highlighting an employee who worked for Marjorie Post (usually changing only once per year)
- **Post’s Bedroom Closets** (large & small) with displays of Post’s fashions, and the nearby jewelry case and lace case (lace, undergarments, etc.)
- **Second Floor Library** displaying books from Hillwood’s Archives & Special Collections
- **Russian Sacred Arts Gallery** displaying liturgical textiles

Rotation displays usually tie first and foremost to the themes of the temporary exhibition. In addition, they will often highlight an auspicious anniversary or date. Sometimes they highlight a new acquisition.

Rotation Schedule

Generally, the first rotation runs February-June; the second rotation runs June-January, and a holiday rotation (often featuring themed trees throughout other rooms) runs the Tuesday of the week of Thanksgiving through the first week of January.

Communication

All volunteers are provided the label text for the rotation displays and special exhibitions so they can answer visitor questions and promote the new displays, or, if a docent, consider including the object in their highlights tour (only for those objects in rooms included on a docent-led tour). These resources are available via the volunteer website and emailed prior to the installation of the exhibition and mansion rotations.