

MANSION DISPLAY UPDATE: RUSSIAN PORCELAIN ROOM



Wednesday, December 13, 2023



In order to safeguard the marquetry floor, a new floor covering was installed to the Russian porcelain room on Monday, December 11. This innovative solution comes from Eyemat, a UK-based company specializing in conservation flooring utilizing digital images. The addition of this conservation flooring allows visitors to fully experience the Russian porcelain room, just as they would have during a visit in Post's lifetime. With this new flooring, there are no longer stanchions, giving visitors the freedom to step on the replica of the round carpet that has been on display in the room since 1961.

With this change, the imperial double-headed eagle wood floor is now covered. This provides a new opportunity for our mansion docents to highlight other objects in the Russian porcelain room during their tours, some which still feature the figure of the imperial eagle, though with some different features. Deputy Director and Chief Curator Wilfried Zeisler offers a recommendation for docents who want to keep this figure as part of their tours:

"There are several plates with imperial eagles in the Russian Porcelain Room. **I would recommend they focus on the plates in Case II, shelf 4. 4 plates showcase different ways to represent the eagle from the late 1700s to the early 1900s.** One they could focus on is plate 26.269. The other plates are 25.160, 25.161, and 25.316."

Please see the below list with images and descriptions of these objects in the Russian porcelain room, as well as installation photos:

Image	Object Information	Description
	<p>Plate (Dish) <i>Soup Plate with Imperial Russian Crest</i></p> <p>Manufacturer: Unknown Chinese, Qing dynasty (1644-1911); Qianlong reign (1735-1796), late 18th Century Porcelain with famille rose enamels and gilding 24.8 cm (9 3/4 in.) <i>Place Made:</i> Jingdezhen, China <i>Place Made:</i> Guangzhou, China</p> <p>Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973</p> <p>Object Number: 26.269</p>	<p>This Chinese export plate for the Russian market is decorated in famille rose enamels and gilding to depict the imperial Russian triple-crowned double-headed eagle with the St. George and Dragon of Moscow shield on its chest, chain of the Imperial Order of St. Andrew around its neck, orb in its proper right claw, and imperial scepter in its proper left claw executed in brown enamels on a white ground surrounded by a gilded rope pattern. The wide flat rim of the plate is decorated with a purple ribbon intertwined with a rinceau of flowers executed in famille rose enamels surrounded by a thin border of gilding. The edge of the plate is also gilded.</p>
	<p>Dish <i>Soup Plate</i></p> <p>Manufacturer: Kornilov Brothers Factory RUSSIAN, c. 1900 Porcelain 25 cm (9 7/8 in.) <i>Place Made:</i> Saint Petersburg, Russia</p> <p>Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973</p> <p>Object Number: 25.160</p>	<p>Plate is covered with old Russian motifs in red, green, blue and turquoise on raised gold ground simulating embroidery. On one side is a medallion with the Russian imperial eagle and around it is an inscription in gold letters on a green ground "with the people, through the people and for the people"</p>
	<p>Dish <i>Plate, one of two</i></p>	<p>In center of plate is the double-headed eagle adorned with orange and green ribbons against a white ground. Border is decorated in old Russian style with strapwork</p>

	<p>Manufacturer: Kornilov Brothers Factory RUSSIAN, c. 1900 Porcelain 24 cm (9 7/16 in.) <i>Place Made: Saint Petersburg, Russia</i></p> <p>Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973</p> <p>Object Number: 25.161.1</p>	<p>alternating with words of inscription (reminiscent of Viaz script).</p>
	<p>Dish <i>Large plate from the Imperial Yacht "The Queen Victoria"</i></p> <p>Manufacturer: Imperial Porcelain Factory RUSSIAN, 1886 Porcelain 26.5 cm (10 7/16 in.) <i>Place Made: Saint Petersburg, Russia</i></p> <p>Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973</p> <p>Object Number: 25.316</p>	<p>In bottom is the Imperial double-headed eagle in black; the crown in gold and red, the St. George and the Dragon, the sceptre and globe being all in gold. Below the eagle is a red banderolle with "The Queen Victoria" in Russian. This plate is the same design as an English one in stoneware in Mrs. May's collection, and was made for the Imperial yacht, "The Queen Victoria."</p>

Installation Photos

