

LOOKING BACK













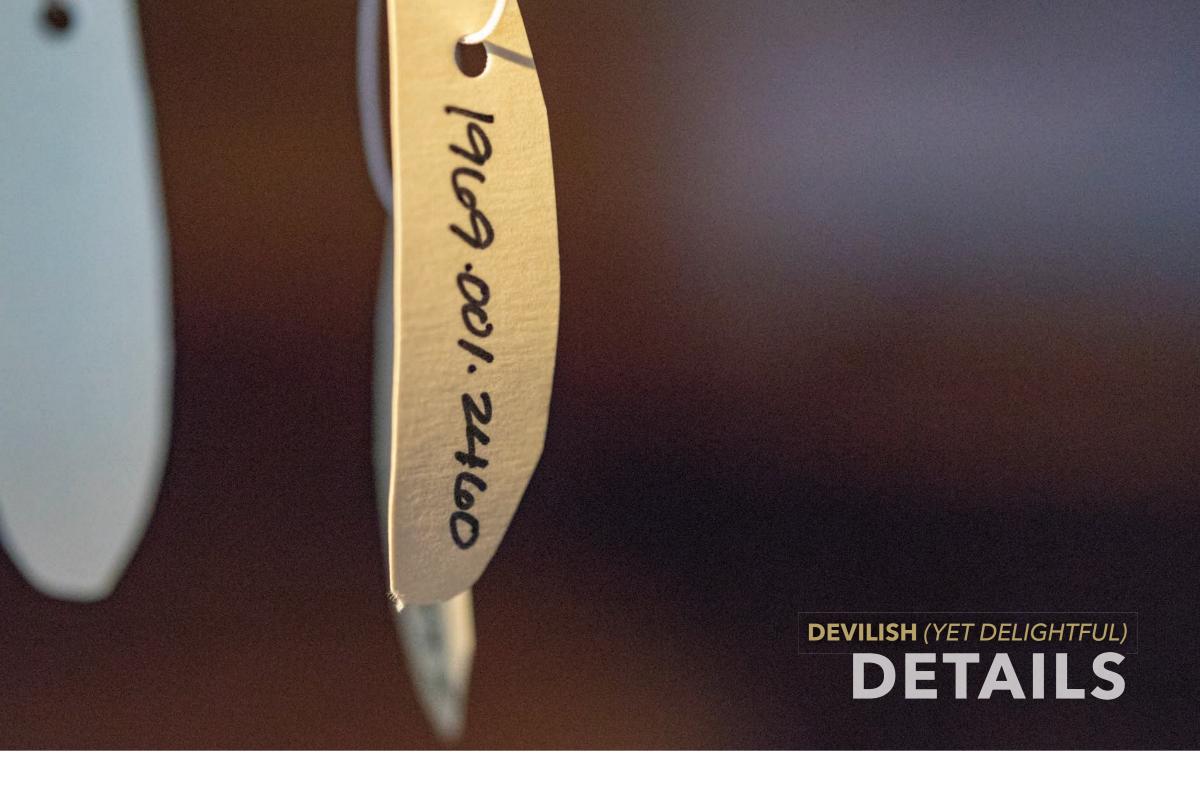






LOOKING

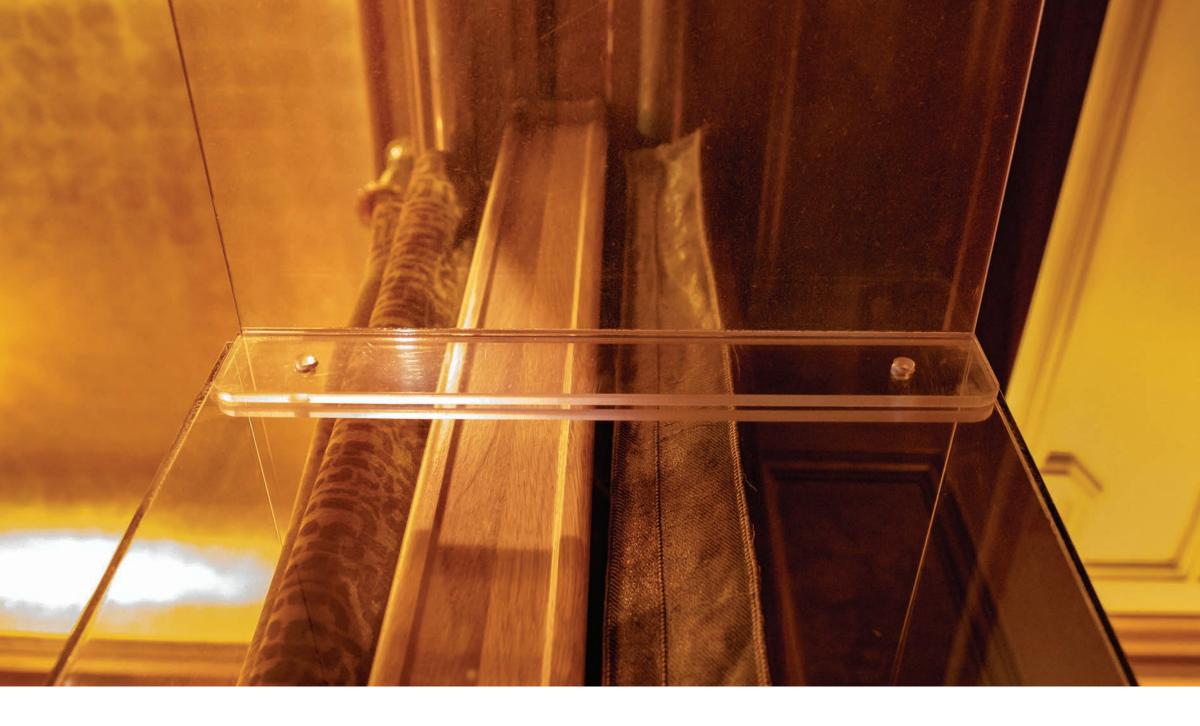
WAY, WAY BACK



When talking about preservation at Glensheen, the devil is in the details. Much of what staff does to protect the collection is behind the scenes, and some of it is right in the open but you may not have noticed.

From the acid-free tissue to the clean white sheets keeping dust away, storage

at Glensheen is all about preservation. Dust is a nuisance in any house, but accumulating dust mixed with our Minnesota humidity can harbor an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. While this might not be a health hazard to most of us, it can be detrimental to objects because leaving dust behind sets up a perfect home for microorganisms to munch finishes that they find delectable.



Now let's talk about what you do see on the tour! In your own house you might redecorate every 10 or so years, so a minor scratch, or less than ideal humidity, doesn't matter since you'll likely choose something else down the road. At Glensheen, most of everything here is at least 110 years old and since we'd like it to last another 110 years or more, the focus is to preserve. So... to the average home-owner the occasional scratch might not be a big deal, but those scratches add up. 100,000+ visitors a year means we do a lot to ensure we preserve everything in its current state.

To that note, if you visited within the past couple of years, you may have noticed some changes along the tour route. We've added curtain protectors around the velvet curtains on the main floor. This eliminates the possibility that someone's purse could snag a thread or that a child might reach out a curious but sticky finger, and still allows you to see the original curtains that the Congdons would have drawn to keep the heat of the fireplace in the living room on a cold winter's evening.



Also, in the spirit of not impeding the visitor experience, we've begun to change out the elegant, but outdated, velvet ropes. We've exchanged them for shorter stanchions and thin gray ropes that keep visitors on the right path but, hopefully let you see the beautiful rooms more clearly.

Some things on exhibit might look a little like museum storage. If you've seen the cedar closet recently you may notice that we have removed a bunch of large

archival boxes (which hold some amazing clothing worn by the Congdons) to open up the space more akin to how the Congdons would have had it. Student housekeeping staff has now gone a step further to prevent dust accumulation by wrapping all the textiles on shelves individually and adding accession numbers on exterior tags so that staff can more easily locate an artifact stored in that room. We strive to make the visitor experience as much like the Congdons' would have lived, but sometimes preservation supersedes that.



One last thing - since we can't exhibit everything at once, some really neat things have to be put in storage. This amazing beetle necklace was purchased by the Congdons in Jerusalem in 1910. It now lives on a mount made specifically for it. While it resides in a box for the time being, it is kept secure using only archivally-safe materials as you see here.

This piece was recently donated to Glensheen from Marcia Congdon. It is a good example of how we continue to receive new gifts from the family today.



LOOKING

FORWARD

















EVENTS

November

Secrets of Glensheen | Free Wednesday Night Event Veterans Day (Free Classic Tours for veterans) | 11-11-18 Christmas Tours Begin (Every tour is a Christmas tour!) | 11-17-18 Candlelight Christmas Tours Begin | 11-23-18

December

Wreath Making | Free Wednesday Night Event Winter Village | 12-1-18 & 12-2-18

January

Moonlight Snowshoe | Free Wednesday Night Event 21+ Flashlight Tours Return | Fri & Sat | 1-18-19 - 3-16-18

February

Zenith City on Tap | Free Wednesday Night Event

March

Glensheen Unplugged | Free Wednesday Night Event

Sunday Fundays

Every Sunday | Free for kids Registration required; check glensheen.org for info and to register

Stay up-to-date with our crazy, new event ideas by subscribing to our weekly and monthly email updates.

Just email us at info@glensheen.org to opt-in!



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