

# The Pope Family's Grand Tour

Episode Two, Paris 1888

<https://www.hillstead.org/armchair-journey/>



## ANSWER KEY:

**Sacré Coeur** - Following a humiliating defeat by the Prussian army in 1870, the church was built with the initial construction paid by a public subscription.

**Key differences between the Byzantine style (Basilica of Sacré Coeur), and the Gothic style (Cathedral of Notre Dame):**

Gothic:

- Vertical - long, slender columns and elongated, pointed arches draw the eye up to soaring vaults.
- Decoration - large windows and plentiful, with stained glass, bring color (if not too much light) to the interior. The exterior is richly decorated with statues.
- Weightlessness - the use of vaulted arches brings an overall sense of a space that has more glass than stone. The use of flying buttresses (on the outside of the building) help provide support to the roof and walls.

Byzantine:

- Doors and arches are rounded (not pointed), and there is a barrel-shaped vault.
- The Byzantine church interior normally has small windows, and is decorated with a marble lining, with mosaics or frescoes applied on top. The exterior is decorated simply.
- The main support for a Byzantine building comes from thick walls and piers.

**The Montmartre District of Paris started attracting artists from the 1870s onwards. Famous names include:**

- Pablo Picasso
- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
- Pierre-Auguste Renoir
- Georges Braque

**Famous artwork:**

- Renoir, *Bal du moulin de la Galette*, 1876
- Toulouse-Lautrec, *At the Moulin Rouge*, 1892-95
- Picasso, *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O)*, 1907



**An early photograph of the artist Toulouse-Lautrec**

[http://www.all-art.org/history658\\_photography13-9.html](http://www.all-art.org/history658_photography13-9.html)

**Bois de Boulogne:**

The next time you take a tour through the Hill-Stead Museum's main house, stop in the Dining Room. There, examine Edgar Degas's pastel masterpiece, *The Jockeys*, which hangs above the fireplace.



The Pope Family would change their paintings' location, from time to time, but *The Jockeys* by Degas has remained above the fireplace throughout. In essence, the space was designed to display the artwork to the best effect.

**Other sporting events in the Bois include:**

- Tennis: Roland Garros
- Rugby & Soccer Parc des Princes
- Horse Racing - Longchamps & Auteuil race courses
- Polo de Paris



**Transportation**

What types of transportation were available in Paris circa 1880s?

Paris Metro started operating on July 19, 1900, to support visitors to the Paris Summer Olympics.

**The earliest underground train networks opened as follows:**



1890	1896	1897	1900	1901	1904
London	Budapest Glasgow	Chicago	Paris	Boston	New York

**Champs-Élysées**

The **Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile** (Triumphal Arch of the Star), built to commemorate the victories of the Napoleonic Armies, is situated at the western end of the Champs-Élysées. It is one of the most familiar landmarks of the Paris skyline.

A famous stunt took place in 1919, when an aviator, Charles Godefroy, flew his biplane through the center of the Arc. It was a tight squeeze with 10-foot clearance on either side of the plane's wings.

A large French flag is typically hung from the middle of the Arc - perhaps to deter any other daredevil pilots?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIZzkq5Y8q0>

### **Secrétan**

Jean-François Millet (1814 - 1875) painted *The Angelus*.

### **Influence on Picasso (and subsequently on Dali):**

Vincent van Gogh was only 22-years old when he saw Jean-François Millet's artwork firsthand in Paris in 1875. From then, van Gogh regarded the older artist not only as an extraordinary artist but also a great role model. Admiring Millet's treatment of the laborers of the lower rural class, then described as peasants, van Gogh actively studied his life and work, reading books on the artist and even making copies of his artworks from illustrated reproductions. Together with Rembrandt and Eugene Delacroix, Millet was among van Gogh's most influential "teachers."

Other masterpieces from the Secrétan Collection that can be found today in museums and collections in America include:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York -

- Frans Hals, *Petrus Scriverius*
- Pieter de Hooch, *The Visit*
- Eugène Delacroix, *The Abduction of Rebecca*
- Style of Rembrandt, *Man with a Steel Gorget*

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston -

- Peter Paul Rubens, *Mulay Ahmad*

Art Institute of Chicago -

- Théodore Rousseau, *Springtime*

Detroit Institute of Arts -

- Peter Paul Rubens, *The Meeting of David and Abigail*

And a little further afield:

National Gallery of Ireland -

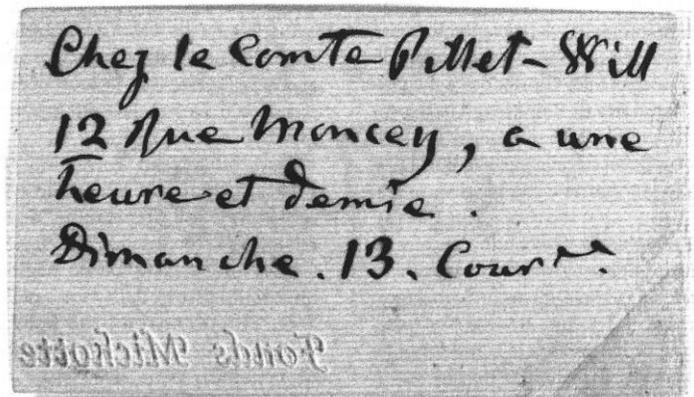
- Johannes Vermeer, *Lady Writing a Letter with her maid*

Lady Lever Art Gallery -

- Sir Joshua Reynolds, *Mrs. Seaforth and Child*

#### **Added Bonus:**

The Secrétan Collection was housed in part of the ground floor of the Hotel Pillet-Will (built between 1860 and 1872), that stretched from 4-14 Rue Moncey, in the 9th Arrondissement near Paris-Saint-Lazare Train Station.



**Several famous figures are associated with the Rue Moncey:**

The composer **Gioachino Rossini** (1792 - 1868) presented the first performance of his choral work, *Petite Messe Solennelle*, to mark the opening of a private chapel at Hotel Pillet-Will in 1864.

**Guy de Maupassant**, the author, lived in a small, dark, ground floor apartment from 1872-1876. He completed work on his first published poem in this apartment.

**Claude Monet** (1877-1878) lived in (another) small, ground-floor apartment, paid for by his friend, and fellow artist, Gustave

Caillebotte. It was during this time that Monet completed a series of 12 paintings of the nearby Gare Saint Lazare.



<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/later-europe-and-americas/modernity-ap/a/monet-gare-saint-lazare>

#### **BONUS MARKS**

##### **Answer to the Bonus question from Episode 1:**

The nearest UNESCO site in the United States to Hill-Stead Museum has a special connection with Paris. What is it?

**The answer is:** The Statue of Liberty!

##### **Bonus Question for Episode 2:**

The Arc de Triomphe occupies a prominent place at the western end of the Champs-Élysées. In the 18th Century, there were several other ideas for magnificent structures to place in this location.

**Which of the following was *not* one of the proposed projects?**

- a) A three-story elephant.
- b) A giant statue of Napoléon Bonaparte, with a viewing platform from the top of his hat.
- c) An enormous water tower from which an artificial river would flow down the Champs-Élysées.