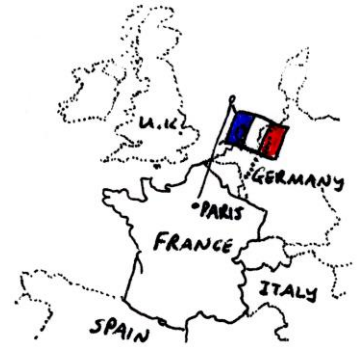


The Pope Family's Grand Tour

The Pope Family's Grand Tour For the intensely curious, armchair adventurers, students, architecture buffs, and historians, we are delighted to offer Hill-Stead Museum's first virtual tour. So, come along with us on a thrilling trip with our founder Theodate Pope Riddle during her Grand Tour (1888-1889), a ten-month educational sojourn across Europe in search of arts and culture via her diary entries. Each week we will reveal excerpts from her journal alongside enriching online cultural programming. It's the ultimate trip across Europe!



It was during the late 16th century when the Grand Tour first became fashionable for young aristocrats, as a means of completing an education based on classical ideals. The educational journey usually began in London and included stops in Paris, and sometimes Spain, Greece, or Turkey. But the “It Girl” of Europe was Italy—especially Venice, Florence with the tour typically culminating in Rome. Typically, the tourist was an English, German, Scandinavian, or American young man with the means to support months of travel touring museums, famous ruins, churches, parks, and fountains. Often, Grand Tourists also collected art for their collections along the way.

The Pope family took a similar path during their Grand Tour, except this educational experience was intended for a trailblazing young woman, their daughter, Theodate. Accompanied by her parents Alfred and Ada, a young gentleman named Harris – whose father was Mr. Pope's business associate – was brought along as her companion. His father, J.H. Whittemore, along with Theodate's parents, had high hopes that the two would hit it off and eventually marry.

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