



Closer Inspection



The couple bought eight **Flemish tapestries** depicting hunting goddess Diana in 1905. Once owned by French King Louis XIII, the silk and wool tapestries date to 1600.

The tapestries were woven in Brussels during the Duchy of Brabant. **A mark** in the tapestry's corner denotes the weavers' workshop where it was produced.



The Andersons acquired this gilt-copper Buddhist **helmet** while traveling in India. Dating to 1610 from Nepal, it was used once by religious leaders during ceremonies.



Larz Anderson commissioned gilt bronze statues, including this one of a **giant**, in 1912 for Isabel, who wrote more than 40 books. The statues depict characters in her children's books "The Ocean Giant" and "The Great Sea Horse." The tiny volcano at base of this statue can be used as a lighter.

A mural in the home's winter garden was painted with oil on canvas and installed by H. Siddons Mowbray in 1909. It depicts the Andersons' favorite **driving routes**, which included sites such as the National Zoo, Chevy Chase Country Club and the Soldiers' Home.



A 19th-century Japanese **crystal ball** rests on an ivory dragon. It is featured in a 1901 portrait of a 24-year-old Isabel Anderson by artist Cecilia Beaux.



Cecilia Beaux's **paintings** were similar in style to John Singer Sargent's, Schulz says. "The Andersons made a deliberate choice to not use Sargent. There's a remark in their journals that they just didn't like his work as much."

A world of treasures

Inside NW Washington's Anderson House

BY KRIS CORONADO

Amble along Embassy Row and you'll stumble upon an uncommon sight: a grand edifice that *doesn't* bear a foreign flag. Known as Anderson House (2118 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 202-785-2040, www.societyofthecincinnati.org/anderson_house), the five-story building doubles as a museum and the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati, a lineage-based group founded in 1783 by Continental and French officers who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Built in 1905, the house was a winter residence for diplomat Larz Anderson and his wife, Isabel, until Larz, a member of the society, died in 1937. The next year, Isabel donated the

home to the group.

Unlike its ambassadorial neighbors, "it's one of the only homes in Washington along Embassy Row that was a private home that you can still see as a private home," says Emily Schulz, deputy director and curator of the house, which is decorated in much the same fashion as the Andersons left it. The couple collected a diverse mix of furnishings, such as Flemish tapestries and Japanese art.

"They made deliberate choices about how they displayed their collections, which communicated things to their guests," Schulz says. "How well traveled they were, how wealthy, how well-read and cultured they were to appreciate all these varied things."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BENJAMIN C. TANKERSLEY