

## Henry G. Marquand and Linden Gate, Rhode Island Avenue

We continue with our series on our Gilded Age neighbors with a look at Henry G. Marquand, a wealthy businessman and patron of the arts.

Marquand was born and raised in New York City, becoming a Wall Street banker and Director of the Equitable Life Insurance Company. He made his considerable fortune speculating on foreign currency exchanges and Southern railroads. He was effectively forced to sell his stake in the railroad after the infamous Jay Gould monopolized the industry. After amassing his fortune, he turned his energy to art collecting, eventually becoming the president of the board of trustees for the new Metropolitan Museum of Art. He supervised the construction of the museum, which was designed by famed architect Calvert Vaux (designer of our own Beechwood and Beaulieu) and which started in 1871. The design was unpopular at the time and was quickly replaced by the modern Met building we know today. Marquand's friend Richard Morris Hunt designed the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue façade as well as the Great Hall and Grand Staircase. Later wings were added by the firm McKim, Meade, and White. Although completely encased in Hunt's design visitors can still see Vaux's original structure within the museum. An avid art collector, Marquand donated the first Vermeer known to have entered a collection in the United States, "Woman with a Water Jug."

In 1873 Marquand had a summer home built in Newport by Hunt: Linden Gate, which was located on Rhode Island Avenue. Although destroyed by fire in 1973, the original brick and stone walls still line the property, and an entrance at the corner of Rhode Island Ave and Old Beach Road reads "Linden Gate." The property also contains a porter's lodge in the northeast corner of the property, on Gibbs Ave. The house itself contained extensive collections of art, earning the house the nickname Bric-a-Brac Hall.

### Linden Gate

Famous painter John Singer Sargent was a guest at Linden Gate in October 1887 after his first visit to the United States and Newport in 1873. Sargent would eventually paint portraits of the family, including Mr. Marquand and his wife Elizabeth; his 1887 portrait of Elizabeth and 1897 portrait of Henry are shown below.



8

Elizabeth Marquand died in New York in 1895. Henry G. Marquand died in New York City on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1902, leaving behind multiple homes including the one on Madison Avenue and 68<sup>th</sup> Street, designed by Richard Morris Hunt. The 1884 mansion was replaced in 1913 with a Beaux Arts Revival apartment building still known today as The Marquand. Mr. Marquand's body arrived in Newport on February 28<sup>th</sup> for burial in Island Cemetery. He is interred in a small family mausoleum still intact today. Linden Gate was inherited by his daughter, Linda and her husband, Rev. Roderick Terry. The house remained in the family until 1951, when it was sold and turned into apartments.