

# Bertha Palmer

A first-person portrayal by Leslie Goddard

In this first-person program, set in 1893, Leslie Goddard portrays Bertha Honoré Palmer, Chicago socialite, wife of real estate magnate Potter Palmer, and pace-setting arts patron. Although best remembered today for her Impressionist art collection, now at the Art Institute of Chicago, the glamorous Mrs. Palmer has her own fascinating story.

As shrewd as she was stylish, Palmer helped recoup her husband's financial losses after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. At the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, she served as hostess to the world. Intelligent and witty, the intriguing Mrs. Palmer still compels attention today.

Inspired by the book *Silhouette in Diamonds* by Ishbel Ross (1975). Also recommended: *Bertha Honoré Palmer* by Timothy Long and Rosemary Adams (2009)



About the Presenter: Leslie Goddard has been presenting history lectures and performing first-person programs in the Chicago area for more than ten years. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in American studies and U.S. history as well as master's degrees in both theater and museum studies. Leslie is a former museum director and educator, and the author of two books on Chicago history. Her nationally recognized presentations include Illinois Humanities Council, Chicago's Navy Pier, WBEZ, Questers International, the Victorian Society in America, and scores of schools, retirement centers, libraries, museums, businesses, and conferences.