

SPOTLIGHT



GLENCAIRN MUSEUM Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania

Glencairn, built between 1928 and 1939, currently serves as a not-for-profit museum of religious art and history. However, the building was once the home of local multi-millionaire businessman Raymond Pitcairn (1885–1966) and his wife, Mildred Glenn and their family. Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, was founded as a religious community in the late nineteenth century by members of a Christian denomination known as the New Church.

Glencairn was built in Bryn Athyn by Raymond, also a member of the New Church, in a style based on medieval Romanesque architecture. The nine-story, granite-and-ruddy-colored-stone mansion features more than 90 rooms on 10 floors. Following the passing of Mildred in 1979, the building and its contents, including the art collections, were given to the Academy of the New Church schools. The collections of the Academy's museum, located on the top floor of the campus library, moved to Glencairn and merged with the Pitcairn collections to create what is now known as the Glencairn Museum. The museum contains a collection of about 8,000 artworks, mostly religious in nature, from ancient Egyptian, ancient Greek and Roman, medieval Christian, Islamic, Asian, and American Indian. Glencairn serves as a museum of religious art and history, continuing the intellectual legacy of the museum of the Academy of the New Church. Today Glencairn's galleries provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the religious beliefs and practices of a variety of cultures and time periods. ¹

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¹ <https://glencairnmuseum.org/>