

# Curator's Choice

**MULTI-TALENTED ARTIST**, designer, teacher, and author Henrietta Barclay Paist (1870–1930) is perhaps best known for her china painting, a popular turn-of-the-century pastime. Born in Red Wing, Minnesota, she studied ceramics in Germany, watercolor painting in Minneapolis, and design in Chicago before settling in the Twin Cities, where she also found time to marry and raise a family.

Internationally recognized, Paist won the gold medal in 1896 at Chicago's National Exhibition of Ceramic Workers for a collection of painted porcelain and garnered an award for a portrait on porcelain at the 1900 Paris Exposition. Over her long career, she exhibited work in the Twin Cities, Chicago, New York, and Detroit. Her nineteenth-century pieces, typical of the popular realistic style, focused on flora and fauna, while her twentieth-century work rendered many of the same subjects in the more stylized manner of the Arts and Crafts movement. The busy artist also taught at the St. Paul Institute of Arts and Sciences (forerunner of the Science Museum of Minnesota), published watercolor studies and designs for pitchers, vases, and plate borders, and served as porcelain judge at the Minnesota State Fair for more than 20 years. A member of the Twin City Ceramic Club, she was also a frequent contributor and assistant editor of the national magazine for china painters, *Keramic Studio*.

Samples of Paist's work in the Minnesota Historical Society's museum collections include the plate, miniature, and card shown here as well as working drawings, watercolor studies, and other examples of hand-painted porcelain. The Society continues to seek additional pieces by this talented artist.



PHOTO BY ERIC MORTENSON



Henrietta Paist at work in her Minneapolis studio, 1905



FRONT COVER: Detail of a bird's-eye view, or panoramic, map of Moorhead, 1882, showing the nascent Clay County seat's layout and its built-up center. The winding Red River of the North and the Great Northern and St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroads helped define Moorhead's form. Behind the opulent Grand Pacific Hotel and depot of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba (#1 on map) are its tracks, leading to the river crossing; the Northern Pacific's more modest depot (#3), tracks, and crossing are one street away. Across the river is Fargo, still in its infancy. For a look at factors influencing the early forms of Minnesota's county seats, see the article beginning on page 330. Map in MHS collections; digital imaging by Lois Stanfield, LightSource Images.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).