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*The “Barbarous Barbaro”: Art, Travel, and Exoticism in  
Isabella Stewart Gardner’s Museum*

**Post-lecture Discussion Guide**

1. What is a “house museum”? Why is the Isabella Stewart Gardner such an important “house museum” and so different from most of the others created during her time?
2. In what way was Gardner’s fascination for the “exotic” problematic? How was it forward-looking, anticipating an increasingly global world?
3. Why was the late nineteenth century a golden era for women’s travel? Why did women travel, and how did their travels differ from those of men? What legacy have these women left subsequent generations? Why is “mobility” so important for modern and contemporary women?
4. What stood in the way of Gardner’s desire to be a leader of the arts? What can stand in the way of women’s careers in the arts today?

5. What do museums have in common with travel? How do museums restage elements of travel in their exhibitions? Why is travel an important part of education as well as of museums?
  
6. Why did Henry James object to Isabella Stewart Gardner's style of travel and art appreciation? How did she win him over to her point of view, in the end?