

4 The Parts of the Carousel

Before we explore the techniques used for restoring the carousel, let's take a closer look at the parts that make up the carousel and consider the features that distinguish the Dentzel carousel from others.

Animals and chariots



The Dentzel carousel at Glen Echo Park is a menagerie carousel or one with other animals in addition to horses. It has 1 lion, 1 tiger, 1 giraffe, 1 deer, 4 rabbits, 4 ostriches, 40 horses, and 2 chariots.

The carousel has three rows of animals. The horses that go up and down are called “jumpers.” They are on the inside two rows. The horses that are stationary are called “standers.” They are on the outside row. The standers are larger and are more elaborately carved and painted than the jumpers. They have highly decorated saddles, blankets with fringes, and flowers, medallions, or other detail on their harnesses. On all of the animals, the side that faces out – the romance side – is more elaborately carved and decorated than the side that faces in.

Each animal is held in place by a steel pole encased in a brass sleeve that runs through its center. The poles that run through the standers suspend the carousel deck from the carousel canopy. On the inside of the deck is another set of suspension poles. At the top of the pole on each jumper is a brass drip cup to catch the oil from the bearings on the crank shafts and to keep it from falling on the riders.

