



Tile Heritage Foundation

for research and preservation of ceramic surfaces

Founded in July 1987 Tile Heritage celebrates its 26th anniversary this year. Supporters like YOU... members, major contributors, industry sponsors, generous grantors... everyone... have made possible the continued fulfillment of the Foundation's mission to Document and Preserve tile history in the U.S., both past and present. THANK YOU!

E-News for Summer 2013

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The Tile Heritage Award tile presented to Vance Koehler, former curator at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Doylestown, PA.



From the left: Sheila Menzies, Vance Koehler, Joe Taylor and Katia McGuirk pose before an Enfield tile mural at the Bopegan Farm, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

Vance Koehler Honored

Among a small group of tile friends gathered at the home of THF board member Katia McGuirk in Doylestown, PA, **Vance Koehler**, the former curator of the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, was presented with the **Tile Heritage Award** for his dedication to research, his preeminence as a tile historian and his respect and fondness for contemporary tiles as well. The 6x6 award tile was designed and produced by **Joan Gardiner**, Unison Pottery and Tile Works in Middleburg, Virginia.

What is a Tile Heritage Award?

In 1993 the board of directors of the Tile Heritage Foundation wished to acknowledge those individuals who embodied the Tile Heritage mission in some exemplary way: promoting an awareness and appreciation of ceramic surfaces in the United States. The board also decided that the award itself should be a tile designed by a tile maker of their choosing whose aesthetic related significantly to the award recipient.

Since its inception, twelve people have received the **Tile Heritage Award**: Kenneth Trapp ('93); Donato Grosser ('94); Frank Giorgini ('95); Carolyn Marks ('96); Susan Tunick ('97); Norman Karlson ('98); Barbara White Morse ('99); Jane Larson ('01); Eric Astrachan ('06); Robert Winter ('09); Joe Koons ('10); and Vance Koehler ('13).



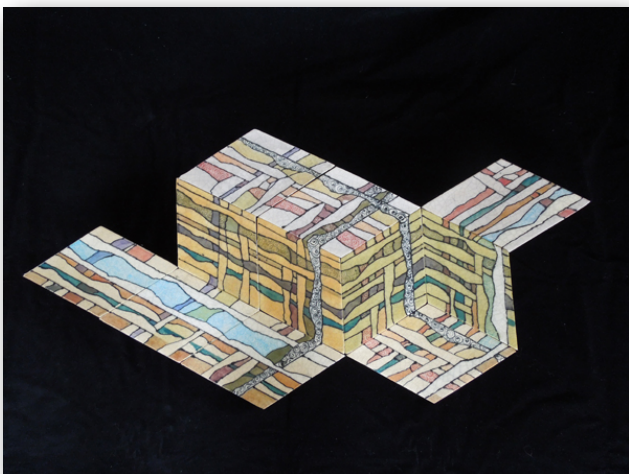
The first Tile Heritage Award, an 8'' x 8'' ceramic tile made from a dark terra-cotta clay stained with iron oxide, was presented to Kenneth Trapp, then curator of decorative arts at the Oakland Museum, for his work in promoting ceramic surfaces. The tile represents the design and craftsmanship of Dale Wiley, who then served on the THF board of directors and is now the THF membership secretary.

The corresponding tile makers were Dale Wiley, Karen Koblit, Lynda Curtis and Libby Donahoe, Pat Custer Denison, Anne Currier and Gretchen Krouse, David Ellison, Linda Ellett, Kenyon Lewis, Don Schreckengost, Marie and Delia Tapp and Steve Moon, Frank Giorgini, and Joan Gardiner.

And what is a Tile Heritage Prize?

A **Tile Heritage Prize** is awarded to an artist whose tile is selected by the juror of an exhibition as best representing the ceramic traditions in North America. The prize is monetary and normally includes a Centurian (\$100) membership in Tile Heritage. The prize is offered upon request of the exhibition host.

The most recent Tile Heritage Prize winner was **Jetty O'Rorke Uebner** at [Mud Daubers' Pottery](#) in Cathey's Valley, California for her "Yosemite Falls." The exhibition, **America's ClayFest**, presented by the Art League of Lincoln, was held at the Blue Line Arts Gallery in Roseville, California; the juror was **Richard Shaw**, recently retired as professor in the art department at UC Berkeley.



"Yosemite Falls" by Jetty O'Rorke Uebner, 2013.

About "Yosemite Falls" the artist writes: "I am fascinated by how water in the form of snow pack, cascades and mist from waterfalls, runoff in rivers, plus buried in the ground traveling in fissures in the rocks can sustain the many forms of life at all levels."

Click here for a [YouTube video](#) of the exhibit!

Invaluable Volunteer and Summer Intern

Jenny Meeker, born and raised in Healdsburg, California, has volunteered her services to Tile Heritage as an archivist for the past six months. To complement her volunteer hours this summer, she has applied for and received a scholarship. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Humanities degree from UC Santa Barbara where she “stood in awe” surrounded by all the beautiful Tunisian tiles. She works for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Sonoma County serving as Supervisor of the Morning Program and as Program Coordinator after school.

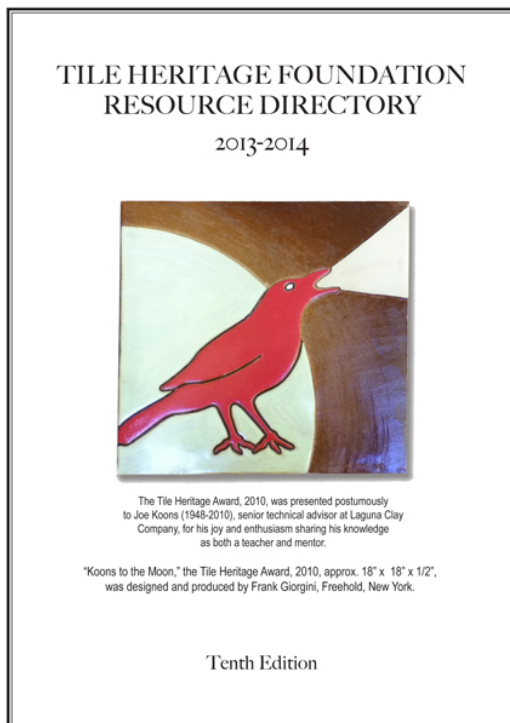
“I discovered the Tile Heritage Foundation when I answered a volunteer ad placed in the *Healdsburg Tribune*. My empty mornings were soon filled with Batchelder and Mercer files, and I found that I not only enjoyed learning about these amazing tile makers, I also liked archiving the files and working towards the main goal of helping to create the Tile Heritage Foundation online finding-aid index.

“I am a detail orientated person who likes to be organized and to see a job through to the end. I am familiar with the archiving/organizational process as I worked in a school library for several years as the Library Technician. I have also been known to archive my own personal books and photographs, and have been, on more than one occasion, deemed, ‘the historian’ by different friends and family members.

“I find volunteering for the Tile Heritage Foundation fascinating and rewarding.”



Jenny Meeker, volunteer extraordinaire, at the Santa Barbara Courthouse, 2010.



THF Resource Directory Now Available

Tile Heritage has recently published the 10th Edition of the **Tile Heritage Resource Directory for 2013-2014** and is already compiling information for its next edition. Unique in its content, breadth and format, the THF Directory is designed to be used as a resource by architects and designers, preservationists, historians, collectors, dealers, installers as well as tile artists, artisans and manufacturers.

With both alphabetical and zip code indices, the directory is sectioned as follows: Appraisers/Collectors/Historians; Antique Tile Dealers; Tile Makers; Tile Specialists; Mosaicists; Tile Installation; Tile Sales; Suppliers; Educators; Publications; Museums; and Organizations.

Price: \$25 (THF members \$20; free to \$60+ members).

15th Annual Tile Festival at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works Doylestown, Pennsylvania, May 18-19, 2013



All tiles shown were donated by tile makers throughout North America to support the archiving programs at the Tile Heritage Foundation.





Eddy Music Building, Alma College in Michigan.

“Performance” Scores at Alma College

Carrie Anne Parks, Professor of Art & Design at Alma College, a small liberal arts school in central Michigan, has created several architectural tile projects since arriving on campus some 30 years ago, often in collaboration with her students.

The college was planning an addition to its music building in 2010 when Parks was asked to get involved. With input from members of the music department and her musician colleagues, the process of “performance” came to the fore.

Meanwhile the architects addressing campus-wide improvements wished to give visitors a sense of the work being done within the different buildings, so Parks decided to position images of musicians from four of the major ensembles over the windows of the music building’s new entrance lobby.

The tiles for each panel were cut from 36” x 72” slabs of stoneware clay. For each tile, edges were finished, and backs were textured and numbered, before the bisque firing. The tiles were fired again at least twice, after the underglaze painting and application of clear and colored glazes.



Each time tiles were removed from the kiln, the panels were reassembled like large, fragile puzzles. Mounted on backer board, the tiles were grouted with a black grout, which from a distance resembles the leading on stained glass windows. Aluminum frames protect the edges of the tiles. Installation of the panels was done by a local contractor under the direction of college facilities director, Doug Dice.

For Parks, each new installation brings its own headaches and lessons, but this piece now looks as if it has always been there. And the opportunity for undergraduate students to experience the design and production of major public art projects is a really special thing.

Carrie Anne, congratulations!



Austin (Texas) Icons Survive Demolition

“The powers that be at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport decided to renovate all the main concourse bathrooms and have removed all the "Austin Icon" tiles I made for ABIA in 1997 and 1998. They will be replacing the tile artwork with tumbled limestone. The airport was supposed to be about Austin, featuring Austin art. When I made those tiles, I felt I was making something for all time. It meant a lot to me to have made a small imprint on Austin and ABIA.”



Claudia Reese at Cera-Mix Studio in Austin initiated an email campaign to save her tiles, asking people to send a message of support to Austin’s Aviation Exhibits Coordinator. It worked! There was an apparent avalanche of emails! The tiles are being saved for a re-installation at the airport, a new entrance, to be completed in 2015. “WOW! They saw the light and changed their plans. I am very gratified by the outpouring of support, and happy with the conclusion.”



Hamilton Tile Works,
Hamilton, Ohio.

Hamilton Tile Becomes Buried Treasure

Just imagine taking a leisurely autumn walk along a familiar trail in a sometimes dry creek bed near home in Ector (Fannin County) Texas, northeast of Dallas, and discovering buried treasure. “We hike this creek bed near our home a few times a year if conditions allow,” wrote Steve Dane, “and have found several antique bottles and the like but nothing quite like this. We are very excited to have stumbled across this beautiful tile. Anything you may know will be helpful.”

The scene is typical of a Hamilton tile as this company produced a number of tiles with “hunting” themes designed for a fireplace facade. The founder and principal designer of the company, **Adolf Metzner**, was a German gentleman who came to the U.S. just before the Civil War and served in the Union army. 6x12 was a comfortable size for Hamilton's decorative tile makers; many different designs were offered in their product line. The tile was made between 1883 and 1901, probably throughout this time period.

Mural Tells the Story of Ceramics: Earth, Water, Fire and The Potter



A mural depicting the story of ceramics, personifying the elements of fire, earth and water, was designed and fabricated by Arthur and Jean Ames in 1952 for Brad Keeler Artware in San Juan Capistrano, California (pictured below). In 1981 the 8' by 21' mural of 6" x 8" tiles was expertly moved to its present location in Mercado Village. Photo by Brian Kaiser..

Brad Keeler (1913-1952) grew up immersed in a world of clay. Born in Lincoln, California where his father, **Rufus B. Keeler**, worked as a ceramic engineer and designer for **Gladding, McBean & Co.**, he moved with his family to National City where Rufus served as superintendent at **California China Products Co.**, then to Huntington Park where his dad founded **Southern California Clay Products Co.**, then **California Clay Products (Calco)** in South Gate and finally **Malibu Potteries**, all before Brad was out of high school.

In 1939 with virtually no formal education in art or ceramics, Brad established a small studio in his garage in Glendale where he developed his skill as a clay modeler of figurines, especially birds of every description. From there his business grew into larger and larger factory settings that blossomed in the post war years.

In 1951 Keeler commissioned **Arthur and Jean Ames**, among the elite in the decorative arts in Southern California, to produce a tile mural for the lobby of his newest ceramics factory in San Juan Capistrano. A proud moment in his short life.



Built as a pottery in 1952 to house Brad Keeler Artware in San Juan Capistrano, this building was occupied by Twin-Winton from 1964 to 1975 and demolished in the early 1980s to accommodate a shopping mall. The Ames mural occupied a place of prominence in the lobby.

JUMP IN ! to help FUND the Tile Heritage Foundation Archives !



Tile Heritage is celebrating 26 years
of gathering the History
of the American Tile Industry --

PRESERVING IT FOR POSTERITY.

To date Sponsor, Member and Grant
FUNDING accomplishments include:

- Digitizing and forming a searchable database for the sizable slide and photography collection of over 42,000 images.
- Digitally recorded, accessioned and archived historic tiles that have been donated to Tile Heritage over the past 26 years, representing a collection numbering over 4,000 different American tiles.
- Accessioned and archived the historic tile catalog collection of over 600 items as well as the collection of over 3000 historic and contemporary periodicals.

Now our full focus is on the 40,000+ ephemeral items (historic tile industry document files) as well as files on contemporary tile makers. Work is underway, under the direction of a volunteer professional archivist, THF staff and other volunteers preparing the material for a database with an internet accessed finding-aid index.

JUMP IN to help FUND the Tile Heritage Archives in REACHING the next level.

**CREATING an online DIGITAL FINDING-AID INDEX DESIGNED to
KEEP the Archives EVEN MORE ALIVE for posterity!**

DONOR MENU BELOW



There are many ways to assist!
Here's a Menu, a Wish List for Donors:

Tempting

1 box of file or pendaflex folders	\$ 15. ()
5 boxes of file or pendaflex folders	\$ 75. ()
1 x data sorting table	\$ 75. ()
10 boxes of file or pendaflex folders	\$150. ()
Other donation	\$ ()

Delicious

1x 3 terabyte storage drive	\$200. ()
10 hrs of data entry	\$200. ()
2 x 3 terabyte storage drives	\$400. ()
20 hrs of data entry	\$400. ()

Alluring

2 x months utility bills	\$500. ()
3 x 3 terabyte storage drive	\$600. ()
Sponsor for a data entry week	\$800. ()
Sponsor for a data entry month	\$3000. ()

Sign me up as a contributor! () My check is enclosed for \$ _____

Please charge my: () VISA () MC () Discover () AmEx

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