



Tile Heritage Foundation

for research and preservation of ceramic surfaces

Founded in July 1987 Tile Heritage celebrates its 25th 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, both past and present. THANK YOU!



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Here is a **Batchelder** tile frieze, salvaged by **Ron Endlich** and myself from a 'teardown' home in Kirkland, Washington. The vintage 6-inch Batchelder corbels were an amazing find at a local antique show. The **Tile Restoration Center** in Seattle made the field tiles using the corbels to color-match. I took artistic license and installed a vintage Batchelder 'logo' tile with a peacock in the small 4-tile grouping on the right side. The hearth tiles are salvaged vintage Pewabic.

Ken Nelson



Mantel detail featured Ernest Batchelder's
"Hearth-Side Dreams."



Manresa Castle, Port Townsend, WA. 1892.

Tile Treasures in Port Townsend

By the time that Washington State achieved statehood in 1889, Port Townsend was already a bustling community. Located on the north-easterly tip of the forested Olympic Peninsula and with a deep and well protected harbor as well, the city was perfectly positioned for commercial development. One prominent citizen, **Charles Eisenbeis**, who had immigrated from Prussia, owned a variety of businesses including a lumber mill and a brick works. Reflecting his status in town, and with materials on hand and a crew of German

artisans, he crafted a 30-room “castle” atop a bluff overlooking the city and the bay, which was completed in 1892.

Known as [“Eisenbeis Castle”](#) for many years, the building has been variously occupied since the owner’s death in 1902, significantly by the Jesuit priests who purchased the house in 1927 and eventually renamed it [“Manresa”](#)



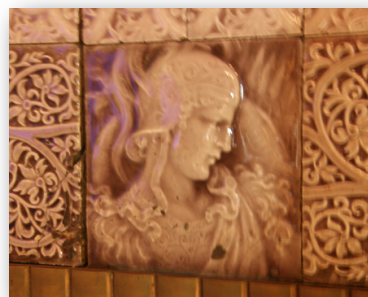
Beaver Falls tile surround in the Castle Key lounge.



Detail of Beaver Falls portrait tile.

[Hall”](#) after the town in Spain where the order was founded. Today, it serves as a hotel with a restaurant and lounge attracting both locals and guests from around the world.

The tile surrounds in the lounge and restaurant were thought by the hotel staff to be European with “Oscar Wilde” as the male portrait. In fact, these are tiles from the **Beaver Falls Art Tile Company** in Pennsylvania (1886-1927). According to tile historian **Chris Blanchett**, the hearth tiles in the restaurant are Italian reproductions from the 1970s.



Detail of Beaver Falls portrait tile.



Beaver Falls tile surround, with contemporary Italian tiles on the hearth, in the Castle Key restaurant.



Sandstone adornment, Jefferson County Courthouse, Port Townsend, Washington.

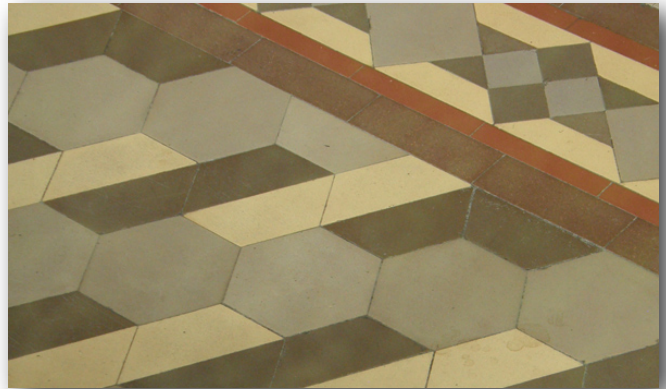
Corridor walls were enhanced with wainscoting, while the floors in the entry and in the two main halls were adorned with geometrically arranged quarry tiles in eight different sizes and in four different complementary clay colors. The source of these tiles is unknown.

The most majestic feature, the bell and clock tower, rises to just over 124 feet with the bell chiming every hour on the hour. The building was completed in 1892.

Jefferson County Courthouse

In 1890 the Jefferson County Commissioners approved the construction of a courthouse on Jefferson Street in Port Townsend, Washington overlooking Admiralty Inlet. They then selected Seattle architect **Willis Alexander Ritchie**, who won numerous competitions for county courthouses and other public buildings during the early 1890s.

Ritchie chose the popular Romanesque style for this project, estimating the cost at \$150,000. He brought in the deep red, smooth bricks from St. Louis and 786 tons of sandstone from Alaska.



Geometrically patterned quarry tiles decorate the floors of the entry and the two main halls of the courthouse.



Jefferson County Courthouse, Port Townsend, Washington, 1890-1892.

U.S. Historic Tile Installations

Board member **Riley Doty** was delighted recently to discover a trove of interesting historic tile material on a website maintained by THF member **Michael Padwee** of Brooklyn, New York. Riley asked Michael to write a few words about this ever expanding resource and received this reply:

"About two years ago I discovered the historic landmarks website. The owner encouraged me to start a website about my interest—historic tile installations. I knew of a few installations existing in the New York area, and others that had been destroyed or had disappeared. I decided to research the installations, organize them by state, and share the information I found. One goal of this website is to locate and describe those installations that still exist but may not be well known, publicize them, and bring them to the attention of those who are interested in the preservation of historic tiles. Another goal is to document installations that have been destroyed and publicize the loss of our artistic heritage. I've received positive feedback and information about other installations from website visitors and hope that THF members will help also."

Here is a link to Michael's web site where 65 to 70 tile installations are described thus far: <https://sites.google.com/site/tileinstallationdb/>. Michael has also just started a blog, "Tiles in New York" as an adjunct to the website: <http://tilesinnewyork.blogspot.com/>.



"Transporting Vegetables to Market," designed by celebrated muralist **Domenico Mortelliti** (1906-1996) was produced by the **Mueller Mosaic Tile Company**, Trenton, New Jersey for the Broad St. station of the Newark (New Jersey) City Subway built between 1929 and 1935. A **Works Progress Administration** (WPA) project, a government sponsored program to put people back to work during the Great Depression, the mural is one of a series of eight depicting life along the 19th century Morris Canal, which connected the Delaware, Passaic and Hudson Rivers. The murals, now part of the underground Light Rail, are located Penn Station, Broad Street, Washington Street and Warren Street. Learn more at https://sites.google.com/site/historictileinstallations/nj_newark--wpa-morris-canal-murals. Special thanks to Michael Padwee for his inspiring research.

Spring with Tile Heritage

Sheila Menzies, representing **Tile Heritage** as a guest of the [Laguna Clay Company](#), attended the 46th annual [NCECA](#) conference in Seattle during the final week of March. Attendees are primarily ceramics educators and their students from throughout North America and beyond, all 3- 4000 of them, many on the leading edge of their profession and the others eager to learn. There are an intoxicating number of local ceramic exhibitions as well. [ATNW \(Artisan Tile Northwest \)](#) presented the only tile exhibit.



Tile Heritage exhibits with Laguna Clay Co. at NCECA.

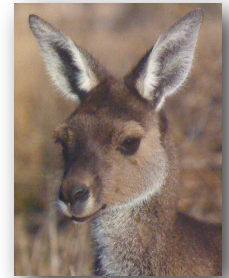


ATNW tile exhibition, Seattle Art Walk, March 2012.

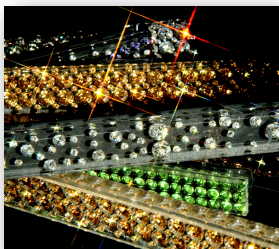
Tile Heritage, an NCECA member, engages educators and students, encouraging them to keep the (ceramic tile) craft alive! In addition, **Joe Taylor** and **Richard Mohr** lectured on historic tiles at pre-NCECA events sponsored by [Historic Seattle](#) to a spirited group of THF members, local tilemakers and preservationists.

[Coverings International](#)

[Tile Expo](#): We returned in early April from an energizing week in Orlando, where Tile Heritage serves



as a co-sponsor. In addition to every imaginable type of tile and stone, we found a few unimaginables on the expo floor: a live kangaroo(!) at Maniscalco - Australia and real Swarovski crystal panels at the Winkler-Steinmetz -Austria booth.



Winkler-Steinmetz

Coverings, with over a thousand exhibitors from around the globe, serves as the ultimate celebration, the annual gathering of tile industry folks: art tile makers, manufacturers, dealers, distributors, the design community, contractors and setters. Besides the staggering array of tiles there is marble and other precious stone and the

machinery of virtually every variety related to tile and stone. As guests of [TCNA](#) (Tile Council of North America), Tile Heritage's participation, interacting within this community, encourages the continued awareness and validation of the craft whether on a large scale or small. Within this grand arena, **Coverings Best in Show Small Booth Award** went to Chicago artisan, [Lowitz & Company](#). Great things do come in small, exquisite packages!



Ted Lowitz with his award.



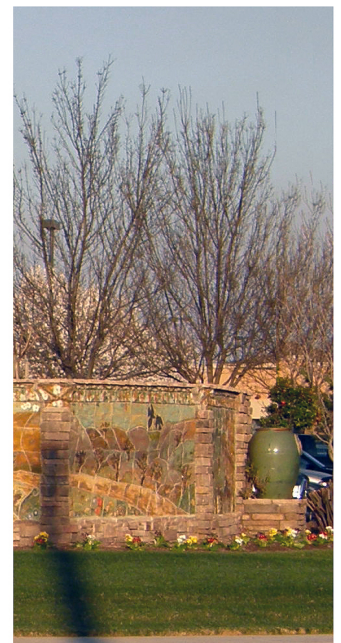
"Grape Wall of Lodi"

Located at Vintner's Square, Hwy 12 and Westgate Drive in Lodi, California, this 65' long by 5' wide sculpted tile mural in high-fired stoneware features five "windows" into nature, each inspired by the historic beauty of an area that was being threatened by development.

According to ceramic artist **Susan Dannenfelser** of [Dannenbeck Studios](#) in Lafayette, CA there is "lots of wildlife, particularly stunning are the Sandhill Cranes, the beautiful mountains, and the old fashion

way of growing grapes using head pruning rather than the espalier method."

The work was commissioned by Dale Gillespie, who was then with G-REM/the Geweke organization. "According to Dale, the piece is supposed to look really good at night--but I have never seen it past about 5:00 p.m.!" the artist reported. "Dale left the organization in the middle of the project, and it was amazing that it got finished at all. The hard work of Robyn Burror, who was then Stockton's Public Art Manager, was the main reason the piece got finished. She asked several artists to make presentation materials for the site and then Dale chose his favorite." The massive project, completed in 2006, was installed by **Kirk Beck** and **Riley Doty**.





“Daily Life in the Early 1900s” by Stacey Farley at the Westfield Historical Society.

“Daily Life in the Early 1900s”

From **Stacey Farley**

Here is a small project I just finished in the new Westfield (NJ) Historical Society. The photographs around the fireplace represent **“Daily Life in the Early 1900s”** and the images are from the society’s archives. I make the tiles from porcelain clay and transfer the photographic images via silkscreen. The tiles are hand-tinted and fired a total of three times at different temperatures. The end result is a frost proof tile which is useful in the public exterior work that I often do at train stations, etc. I am in the process of producing large tiles, 11" x 11", with landscape images of the Hudson River.

I always read your THF news with great interest. Many thanks for your good work in keeping the craft alive.

Guidelines for Submitting Stories and Images to THF

We love hearing from you! Here’s how to share your projects, installations and great resources with the rest of the Tile Heritage community. We also encourage all calendar listings for events, workshops, exhibitions, festivals, symposiums, auctions and sales.

Directions to submit articles and images to Tile Heritage to share (permanently) at the THF website in E-News, Special Features, Education, Clay in the Classroom & Community etc:

—> **Please keep** the text limited to one to three short to medium-sized paragraphs. A longer story with images can certainly be submitted as well. We do embrace that, and we will create a link to the full text of longer articles or place them in Special Features.

—> **Please submit** a digital image for each paragraph you write (if available).

—> **Images should be jpegs** approx 4x6 inches at 150dpi. Please do not embed images in Word.docs.

—> **If your text includes links** to other locations, Youtube or other videos, please be sure that the links are complete and work before submitting them to us for publication.

Note: Articles and images will not be posted right away at the THF website. We also may have to edit your words or print fewer pictures of a project. We will communicate with you though and thank you for your submissions... this is YOUR organization, YOUR repository for your tile, mosaics, terra cotta, and architectural ceramics installations--pictures and stories for posterity with the Tile Heritage Foundation.



Mirebalais Hospital Project

From Laura True

The second and final phase of the Mosaics For Mirebalais Hospital Project with Partners in Health is underway! This summer I will be working with my Haitian team to produce a series of mosaic murals throughout the Pediatric Ward and Children's Playroom.

We funded the beautiful mosaic projects in Phase One through community-driven fundraising with people like YOU making donations to the Mosaic Artwork Fund for Mirebalais Hospital from \$10-\$1000 with several Project Sponsors at levels from \$2500- \$10,000.

We need your SUPPORT to fund the Children's Ward Project. It's easy to [donate online by credit card](#) or by check - any amount is truly appreciated. Please consider making a donation today!

Thanks to you we've already made The Mosaics For Mirebalais Hospital Haiti Project a huge success. I want to thank you for donating to the Mosaic Artwork Fund in 2011. **Without your donations, we cannot make Phase 2 project a reality!**

Over the past year I'VE TRAINED A TEAM OF HAITIAN ARTISTS from the town of Mirebalais in ceramic tile mosaic setting techniques. Together, we created three architectural mosaic projects for Mirebalais Hospital, a beautiful, new hospital being built by Partners In Health.

Please read about [Phase One Mosaic Projects](#) on my website.

I'M WORKING WITH MY HAITIAN TEAM again to produce a series of mosaics throughout the Pediatric Ward and Children's



Drawings by schoolchildren in Mirebalais and Studio City. Mosaic birds and butterflies by volunteer mosaic artists from the US and France. Design translation by Laurel True, individual mosaic elements above by top to bottom: Lisa Bookstein, Valerie Nicholdiez, Amy Neiman.



Photo courtesy, Laurel True and Partners in Health

Playroom. These mosaics will be created through a cross-cultural process that will engage school children from Mirebalais, Haiti and Studio City, CA in design development. Volunteer mosaic artists are contributing to the project by making mosaics translated from the childrens' drawings.

THE MOSAICS FOR THE CHILDREN'S WARD AT MIREBALAIS HOSPITAL PROJECT will bring color and vibrancy to an area where sick and injured children will spend many hours. I have designed this project so that mosaic will cover large areas that are highly visible to patients.

TO DONATE [click here](#)