

Tile Heritage Foundation: Guardian of American Tile History



Tile Heritage Foundation was established in 1987 as a member supported, not-for-profit organization whose sole purpose is to protect and preserve the history of the American Tile Industry.

Tile Heritage is dedicated to promoting an awareness and appreciation of ceramic surfaces in the United States.

The Foundation is a repository, an archive, which embraces all aspects of the industry from its inception in the 1870s through to the present time, validating its significance for posterity.

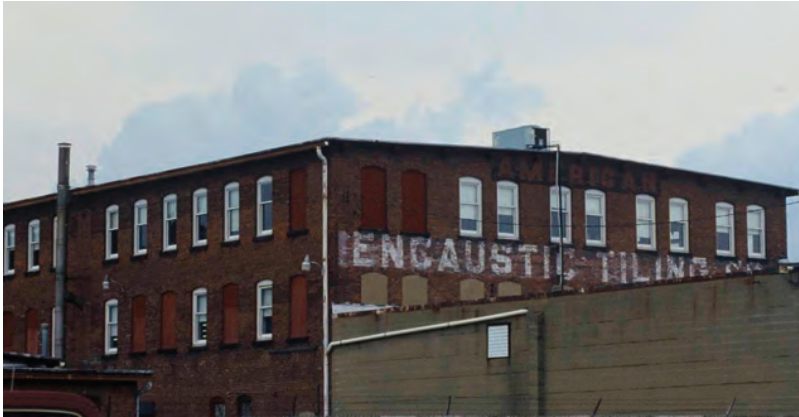
The Foundation's archives include an estimated 40,000 documents and an equal number of images, both historic and contemporary. Manufacturing, distribution and installation histories are represented.

The body of information on hand, coupled with expertise resulting from over 70 years of combined experience in the field and access to a network of experts worldwide, provides assurance of both helpful and accurate answers to questions and solutions to problems.



Above, a "bottle" kiln at the American Encaustic Tiling Co. with tiles being loaded into saggars for firing. At left, a fanciful, dust-pressed American Encaustic frieze for the center of a fireplace surround, circa 1890s. Photos from the Tile Heritage Digital Library.

Manufacturing represents the cornerstone of the tile industry.



The American Encaustic Tiling Company in Zanesville, Ohio, was the largest tile manufacturer in the country by 1930. Its first commission in 1876 was to produce encaustic floor tile for the Muskingham County Courthouse in Zanesville (below, right).

The primary goal of Tile Heritage is to assist in the preservation of ceramics surfaces, which includes its legendary history, significant installations, as well as the objects themselves. By providing pertinent information, unbiased consultation and specific recommendations when needed, the Foundation serves both the industry and the public at large as no other agency can.

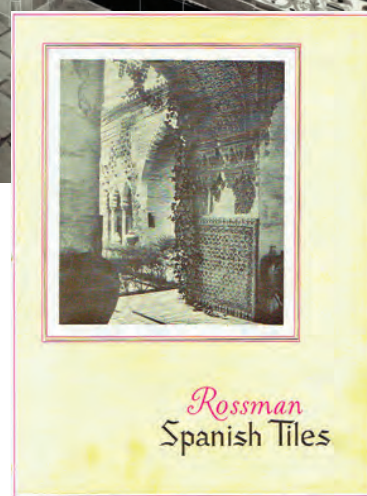


At left, an undated picture of the office staff at the American Encaustic Tiling Company in Zanesville. From the women's attire and hairstyles, a likely date would be mid-1920s. Photos from the Tile Heritage Digital Library.

Marketing, sales, and distribution have served as an essential realm within the tile industry since tiles were first made to sell.



During the last half of the 1920s a number of companies hosted exotic showrooms in major urban centers with sales supported by sophisticated printed materials in full color. Rossman Corporation was one of these with representation in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco featuring both imported and domestic tiles.



The offices of E.L. Bradley in San Francisco, which represented Rossman, were rather dark and austere by today's standards. Lots of handwritten letters, typewriting and teletype options, but none of the convenient forms of communication we have today.

Photos from Tile Heritage Archives, E.L. Bradley Collection. Gift of Rodger Dunham.

"Tile Heritage speaks for all of us interested in the world of tiles."

**Marie Glasse Tapp, Founder
Tile Restoration Center**

Honoring the work and artistry of tile installers through the archiving of their accomplishments validates tiles for posterity.

Henry Krier (1886-1967), a legend in his own right in Southern California during the '20s and '30s, learned his trade in Germany, emigrated to the United States early in the 20th century, establishing himself as a mason and then as a productive tile contractor.



Henry Krier, posing proudly in front of his home/office, c. 1938. Tile Heritage Archives, Krier Collection. Gift of Rick Baratta.



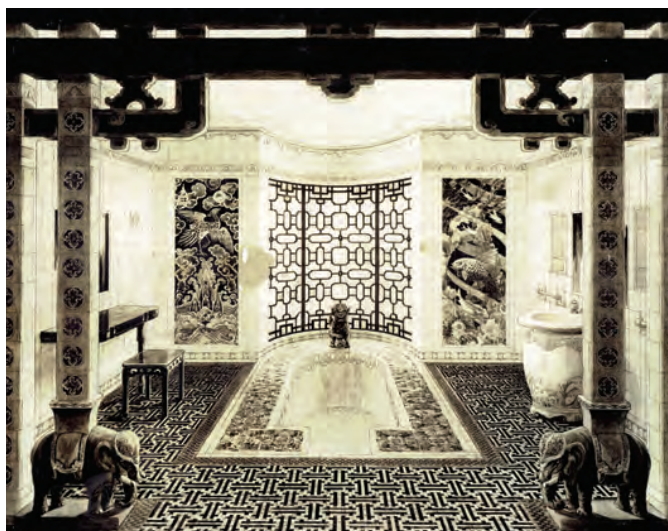
“The Legacy of Henry Krier” by Lynn Downey, was published in “Flash Point,” vol. 2, no. 3 by the Tile Heritage Foundation in 1989.

“Each time I kneel, it’ll cost you money!” HK

With the development of the vision for Tile Heritage an important aspect has always been education through integration—the bringing together of all those with a vital interest in ceramic surfaces.

Tiled bath set by Henry Krier at the castle of Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson at Lake Elsinore, California, 1929.

Photo by Albert E. Cawood. Tile Heritage Archives, Krier Collection. Gift of Rick Baratta.



Identification encourages restoration of historic tile installations.

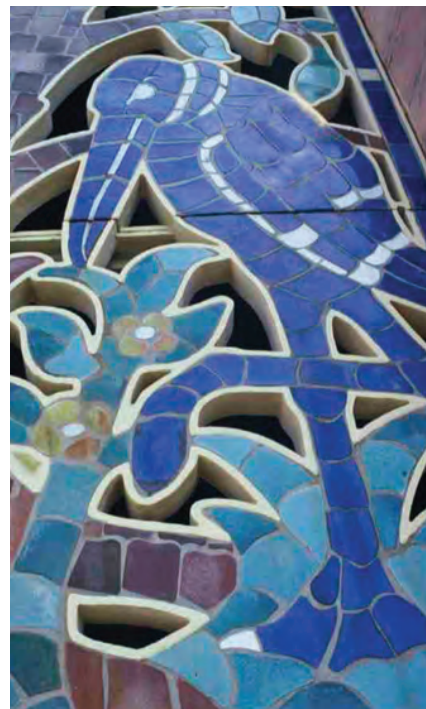


Tiles by Handcraft Tile Co. of Milpitas, California adorn this 1937 Spanish Colonial residence in San Jose.

TILE INSTALLATION IDENTIFICATION. *The Tile Heritage Foundation offers tile identification services to the public at no charge. Simply email foundation@tileheritage.org with clear, low res images of individual tiles or tile installations along with whatever relevant information is readily available: site (city/state), size, date (approximate), architect/designer if known. If the experts at Tile Heritage are not able to identify the work, your email will be forwarded to others who are likely to know.*

Tile Heritage has been involved with Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida since 1994 when we were contacted to verify the identity of the tile installations at Pinewood, a Spanish Colonial house built in 1931. Currently, the Gardens are engaged in an extensive restoration of the exterior of Bok Tower itself, the 205-foot, 60-bell carillon decorated with a series of colorful tile grilles that provide the openings for the bell chamber. Sadly, the grilles, designed and fabricated in 1929 by the Enfield Pottery and Tile Works, have been compromised by an acid wash applied during a previous cleaning of the tower. The situation has now been addressed by industry experts.

Tile Heritage involves more than the identification and protection of tiles. *The Foundation represents the need to preserve a perception of ourselves. The archival records held by THF are of national importance—they tell our story! We are all part of this heritage!*



Preservation of significant installations is of paramount importance.



Port of Long Beach Administration Building. Photo courtesy Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Adorning the front of the vacated Port Administration Building in Long Beach, California is a historic ceramic tile mural produced in 1959 at Gladding, McBean under the direction of Sheridan Stanton and painted by Paul Marciel Souza, a well-known Southern California artist. This 74-foot mural is scheduled for demolition in 2018 unless the tiles can be removed and relocated. Long Beach Heritage has been communicating with the Port of Long Beach for several years encouraging the relocation of the mural. At the time of this writing, sample tiles have been safely removed and a protocol for the removal, labeling, packing and storing of the tiles is being prepared for potential bidders. Long Beach Heritage will soon spearhead a fundraising drive to fund the removal process.

Tile Heritage documents the location and producers of contemporary installations as well. Their future is often as vulnerable as historic works and the need to preserve them in situ equally important.



"Water Through Time," is the creation of Susan Dunis and Sienna Dunis Ginn of Dunis Studios in Wimberley, Texas. The 15 x 5-foot mural was mounted on the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio in 2014. Photo courtesy of Susan Frost.

Educational outreach has always been fundamental to the mission of the Tile Heritage Foundation.

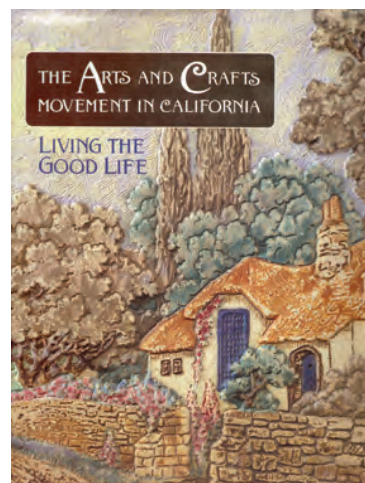


“California Tile,” an exhibition of historic tiles, opened at the San Francisco Airport Museum in 2004, where it remained for over nine months. Tile Heritage supplied tiles from its collection and provided all of the tile graphics from its slide library.

Over the past 25 years a number of prestigious institutions have partnered with Tile Heritage or borrowed historic materials for their periodic exhibitions. The Oakland Museum was the first for “The Arts and Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life” in 1993, introducing a variety of historic California tiles and publishing a 328-page hard cover catalog that featured a decorative tile cover and included a chapter devoted to these tiles.

In 2004 the California Heritage Museum in Santa Monica sponsored a 2-volume publication, “California Tile: The Golden Era 1910-1940” to coincide with its tile exhibition of the same name. Joseph Taylor of Tile Heritage served as the book’s editor.

That same year the San Francisco Airport Museum presented “California Tile” in its North (United) Terminal, an extraordinary exhibition of both historic tiles and tile graphics (above) provided by the Tile Heritage slide library. The display was seen by millions of travelers over its nine month duration. Currently, the museum is planning an Arts and Crafts exhibition for 2017, for which Tile Heritage has provided a selection of historic tiles.



A Claycraft Potteries tile was chosen for the cover of this exhibition catalog.

“Educate” is what we do best!

To be most effective, education necessitates direct communication.



Screening raw clay dug from the mountains near La Madera, New Mexico to make tiles from scratch, a 2-day workshop at “Spirit in Clay,” in the fall of 2000.

“Communicate” is what we do!

Email provides our principal means of communication today both from the office and when we’re “on the road,” responding to the daily barrage of inquiries from throughout the United States.



As a guest of Tile Council of North America at Coverings, Tile Heritage engages with industry people concerning historic installations as well as preservation and restoration issues. Las Vegas 2011.

Between 1991 and 2005 Tile Heritage presented annual symposiums in different cities around the United States, partnering with local organizations, to bring like minds together and to raise a community’s consciousness about the significance of local tile installations within these diverse venues. The program, most often 4-5 days, included workshops, tours and lectures on both historic and contemporary tile-related subjects. Useful tile tour maps were created as a lasting memento.



Tile Heritage tour discovers encaustic tiles at Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth, Minnesota in 2005.

Thirty years ago one would be hard pressed to find a book on American tiles; today there are scores to choose from, covering both historic and contemporary ceramic surfaces. Tile Heritage published 42 issues of “Flash Point” (ISSN 1078-5647) between 1988 and 2003; 16 issues of *Tile Heritage: A Review of American Tile History* (ISSN 1978- 5655) have been published as well. Since 2004 “E-News” and “Shards & Snippets” serve as the Foundation’s principal means of outreach; all back issues are available online.

Please visit: www.tileheritage.org.

The Foundation is now engaged in maintaining the industry’s history as a living archive through a publicly accessible finding-aid Index.



Tile Heritage Foundation’s archived tile collections, available by appointment.

“Where art and architecture meld and merge in the world of tile, Tile Heritage Foundation is there, preserving and documenting to educate the future of our industry.”

**Eric Astrachan
Tile Council of North America**

The tile collection alone contains over 4000 different glazed and decorative samples from scores of American companies dating to the 19th century. All of the tiles in the collection have been donated; Tile Heritage does not buy or sell historic material.

The present time is of critical importance as we strive to enhance the accessibility of the Tile Heritage archives and collections for industry-wide and public use. Our goal is to keep the archives “alive” with our ongoing development of the *online Finding-aid Index. It is imperative that this work be completed. Expanding our industry partnership is essential to its success.

The Tile Heritage Library contains hundreds of books and over 40,000 documents. The collections include over 700 original company catalogs and more than 40 tile-related periodicals dating back to the 1880s.

“Tile Heritage represents the ‘soul’ of the industry in America.”

**Donato Grosser
D. Grosser & Associates, Ltd.**



Tile Heritage Foundation’s archived periodical collections.

****A Feather in our Cap! Tile Heritage Archives has been accepted as a contributor by the Online Archive of California (OAC), providing access to the Tile Heritage Archives Index nationwide and beyond!***

A broad funding base is essential for the long-term sustainability of Tile Heritage. Membership and sponsorship have always provided the core of the Foundation’s financial stability.

For the past 30 years Tile Heritage has received substantial support from sponsors in the tile industry. Diverse membership within and beyond the industry has also played a major role. The Foundation has benefited from substantial grant support as well.



Industry Sponsors play a major role in providing sustainability for the Tile Heritage Foundation.

THF engages in creative, public-centric fundraisers such as tile festivals, tile tours, lectures, auctions and other events, often creating venues that showcase contemporary tile making.



Tile Festival at the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Doylestown, PA.

TEAM UP WITH TILE HERITAGE!

Email: foundation@tileheritage.org

www.tileheritage.org

Tile Council of North America (TCNA) has embraced Tile Heritage for many years recognizing the importance of maintaining the historic tile industry archives and collections.

TCNA advocacy and inclusiveness has contributed greatly to the Foundation’s validation and visibility.

“It is very important that we, as an industry, promote an appreciation of tiles—to know what came before. Individually we are not always able to do that, but by supporting the Tile Heritage Foundation we can preserve the history. As an industry we should support that work.”

Svend Hovmand, Crossville Ceramics

We invite you to partner with the Tile Heritage Foundation by becoming an Industry Sponsor—protecting tile history today, validating that history for tomorrow!