



## E-NEWS FROM TILE HERITAGE

October  November 2007



Can you identify this tile? It was shown to us by a collector in Vallejo, California. Click on the image to let us know!

Here's What's Below:

**Newlyweds in Turkey**

**Teachers Take Notice**

**Over 60 ("Healthy") Tiles**

**True Mosaics Brighten Brentwood**

**Where were you in '59, Pomona?**

**Just in from Denver**

**New Books**

**Weller Tile's Founder Dies**

### **Newlyweds in Turkey**

In mid-September a group of us gathered at Emandal, a self-sustaining farm on the Eel River northeast of Willits, California, to celebrate the marriage of **Amy Taylor** and **Jason Mitchell**. It was a 3-day affair with both friends and relatives in attendance, about 140 of us in all, from all over the country. For an outdoor wedding the weather couldn't have been more perfect for this time of year. Li Ping Zhu, a close friend of the bride and groom from San Francisco, officiated during the service, which was held in a clearing adjacent to the river; she played a large Chinese harp as a prologue. The groom and bride were ushered in with the stirring skirl of bagpipes played by Mary Taylor. It was quite a lovely occasion!

Amy and Jason, Californians by birth, met at post-graduate school in San Francisco; they are both practicing acupuncturists in Berkeley. When they made the decision to spend their honeymoon in Turkey, we knew they'd return raving about all the tiles they saw! Rest assured we'll be sharing their pictures with you in the months ahead.



**Congratulations!**  
**Amy Taylor Mitchell**  
**and Jason Taylor Mitchell,**  
**September 15, 2007.**

## TEACHERS Take Notice!



**Clay in the Classroom resources link is now active!** Check out the THF website Home Page for the **Clay in the Classroom** active icon.

Tile Heritage has developed a link to resources for teachers who are involved with clay in the classroom and for those who wish to bring a clay program to their classroom. This includes "kids" of all ages: preschool, K-12, college and adult education. Two links are complete: **THF Direct Resources** and **Useful Websites**. A third link is "under construction," **Individual Teachers with Information to Share**. To utilize information posted on the links go to: **Clay in the Classroom**

To contribute information to share with others, please email the resources or information to [foundation@tileheritage.org](mailto:foundation@tileheritage.org). Use "**Clay in the Classroom**" in the subject title please.

### Over 60 ("Healthy") Tiles

Far more than sixty tiles have been used to adorn the exterior and some interior areas of the **Over 60 Health Center** at the corner of Sacramento St. and Alcatraz Ave. in Berkeley, California. The health complex involved a community-based public art project headed by artists **Chere Mah** and **Susan Wick**. At ground-breaking in 1998 more than 80 members of the South Berkeley community rolled up their sleeves to produce over 90 individual works of art on tile to be incorporated into the project's final design.



**Over 60 Health Center, Berkeley, California.**



During the weeks and months that followed tile artist

**Ruth O'Day** led tile making workshops at local senior centers and nursing homes, involving over 500 art festival patrons, elders, homeless people, adult learners, and youths from Longfellow Middle School and Berkeley High. These community members learned to mold, glaze, paint and arrange tiles, and they learned that they were capable of creating beautiful work.

The tile project was inspired by the quilts of **Gee's Bend**, a small rural community on the Alabama River southwest of Selma where in the mid-19th century the freed slaves founded an all-black community. Over the years the women of **Gee's Bend** developed a distinctive, bold, and sophisticated quilting style based on traditional American and African American quilts but with a geometric simplicity reminiscent of Amish quilts and modern art. The women



passed their skills and aesthetic down through six generations to the present. In recent times both the **Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** and the **Whitney Museum of American Art** in New York have presented major exhibitions of the work, and the media attention nationwide in magazines and on television has been phenomenal.



Never missing an opportunity! From the left, Irene de Watteville, Sheila Menzies, Donna Billick.

The quilt-like panels of mosaic on the **Over 60 Health Center** reflect the variety of people who contributed to the project. They are colorful, variegated, and yet integrated and harmonious with the surrounding environs. The project, installed during the rains of February 2000, was partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Berkeley Civic Arts Commission and the Berkeley Community Fund.



## True Mosaics Brighten Brentwood

Sculptured mosaic benches created by artist **Laurel True** have been installed in two small pocket parks, part of the Rose Garden subdivision in Brentwood, California. According to Ruth Roberts in the Brentwood Press, in **Rainbow's End Park**, 1626 Marina Way, the benches include S-shaped sets that flow like a rainbow-like arc and are highlighted with a full spectrum of colors. In nearby **Kaleidoscope Park**, along the edges of the play area, two smaller benches reside each with colorful mosaic patterns resembling what one sees when looking into a kaleidoscope. The mosaics are composed primarily of **McIntyre** tile, some **Heath** tile, glass marbles, mirror, stones, and more.



True Mosaics, Rainbow's End Park, Brentwood, CA.

**Laurel True** grew up in the Midwest always dreaming of being an artist. After graduating from college she traveled the world studying the arts. In 1990 she apprenticed with **Isaiah Zagar** in Philadelphia and that provided the spark that ignited her mosaic creations. In addition to **True Mosaics**, her architectural mosaic company specializing in site-specific installations, public art, private commissions and community projects, Laurel has founded the **Institute of Mosaic Art** in Oakland, where classes and workshops are held on a regular basis. The Institute presents exhibitions and various educational events, houses **Mosaic Studio Supply**, a resource library and a cafe.



More True Mosaics, Kaleidoscope Park, Brentwood, CA.

IMA also serves as a **Tile Heritage Hub** where people can browse through tile-related books and magazines and pick up maps of tile and mosaic installations in the Bay Area. See [www.instituteofmosaicart.com](http://www.instituteofmosaicart.com).

### Where were you in '59, Pomona?

THF member **Kirby Brown** informed us that some potentially interesting pictures were being offered for sale on eBay. Can you imagine no one bidding?? Five prints of the employees of the **Pomona Tile Manufacturing Co.** in 1951, '55 and '59 were up for grabs. We took the bait and bought the set. Now the challenge will be trying to identify the people! Don't look for me; I was in high school in Connecticut. Don't look for Sheila; she was still in Scotland! If you see anyone you recognize, please let us know.



**Pomona Tile** was founded in 1923 by Judson Clark and was acquired within its first year by **R.J. Schroeder**, who maintained the offices and factory at Third and Reservoir Streets in Pomona, California. The company specialized initially in unglazed ceramic mosaics, but by the end of the decade both ceramic floor and wall tiles were produced. The height of production came in the mid-1950s when **Drew Schroeder** took over the reins from his father. But competition was intense, and despite the broadening of its product lines, the company began losing its grip by the early-sixties. **American Olean** acquired Pomona in 1966 providing the backing and leadership to introduce Pomona Stone and the colorful Caribbean line. AO sold the company to **Huntington Tile** in 1976, ending over 50 years of Pomona tile production.



## Just in from Denver!

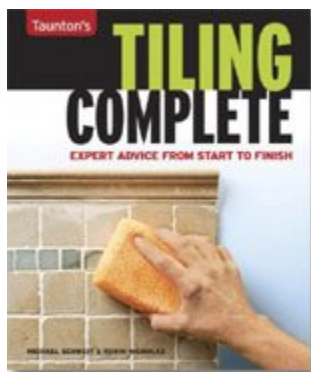
Just this week a gentleman from Denver sent us a picture of a fireplace mantel in his home. Thinking it was Batchelder tile, he was looking for more tiles like it. We were able to inform him that he had **Muresque tiles**, not Batchelder, and that these tiles were most likely made in Denver, not Oakland, California where the company spent its first ten years (1925-1934). He said that he knew of nearly a dozen houses on his street that had similar fireplaces. Are we going to believe that?

In 1934 **Bill Muir**, the founder of **Muresque Tiles**, sold the company with all of its molds to David Heany in Denver, who resold the company to **F.J. Goldsmith**. Goldsmith and his wife Emily made Muresque tiles in Denver until the early 1940s.



Tiles by the Muresque Tile Company of Denver, Colorado, circa 1937.

## New Books!



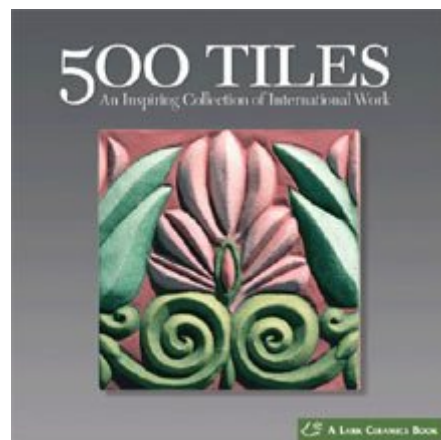
### *Tiling Complete*

THF member **Robin Nicholas** writes: "I've been out of the loop for awhile as my partner and I were working on a tile installation book for diy'ers. Just thought I'd toot our horn and send you an early link (it will be out in Jan./why worry about the Xmas rush?!) through Amazon (there is a plug for Tile Heritage by my bio).

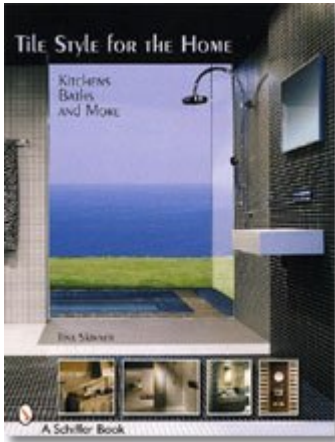
We were lucky to get to do the book and it does contain a lot of information and photos that aren't available elsewhere."

### *500 Tiles: An Inspiring Collection of International Work*

From press-molded pieces to carved works showcasing spectacular surface treatments, these magnificent tiles will inspire beginners and professionals, as well as collectors and enthusiasts. Some of the larger handcrafted displays were made to decorate public and private spaces; others use single tiles to interpret nature, tell a story, or make a bold cultural observation. As with other Lark Ceramics Books, all the contributors are accomplished artists, renowned in the field. A tile by Carrie Anne Parks Kirby adorns the cover, and if this work is any indication of the book's content, you can be sure that you'll be wanting a copy prominently placed in your living room where you can show it off! This 420-page new publication, due in January 2008, promises to provide a splendid array of decorative tiles by artists both within the U.S. and beyond.



**Priced at \$24.95 (plus \$6 for S/H and 7.75% sales tax for CA residents), you may choose to support Tile Heritage by ordering the book now! We will ship as soon as the book arrives.**



## *Tile Style for the Home: Kitchens, Baths, and More*

**Tina Skinner**, with the Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturer's Association, explores almost 500 contemporary tile projects with thousands of ideas for illuminating a home with the beauty of tile. Take an exciting look at rooms lined with colorful and textural tiles. Contemporary kitchens and baths, as well as living rooms, fireplaces, home spas, gyms, theaters, dining areas, and even outdoor rooms that feature tiles are illustrated in brilliant color. Durable, low-maintenance and easy-clean tile is a wonderful solution for anyone seeking to go beyond the ordinary in residential interior design.

**From Schiffer Publishers, soft cover, \$24.95 plus \$4.50 S/H and 7.75% sales tax for CA residents. Order from THF today!**

## Weller Tile's Founder Dies

For me, **Steuart Weller** will always be the guy with tiles up his sleeve. He and his wife Gracie joined us for our tile symposium in Philadelphia in 1998, attracting all kinds of attention as they brought with them boxes of historic tiles, colorful liners from American Encaustic and Mosaic Tile. It was like tiles were coming out of his shirt sleeves! If I remember correctly, the tiles were wrapped in groups of 2 or 3 or more and tied with a ribbon so you couldn't see exactly what you were getting. There was at least one package for everyone present, but I recall being embarrassed that some in our group tore into the box as if they were starved, hadn't eaten in a week!

A few years later when planning our symposium for Washington DC, our event coordinator Gaye Lindsey and I were invited to join the Wellers for lunch in Ashburn, Virginia, the home of Weller Tile & Mosaic, a contracting company founded in 1968. I sat across the table from Steuart and early on in the meal he casually handed me an envelope. To my surprise, enclosed was a substantial sponsorship check that assisted us in underwriting the event that fall.

Steuart was 74 when he passed away last February. All of us at Tile Heritage offer our condolences to Gracie and to their family and friends. He was a very special kind of guy.

Joe Taylor



**Tiles that Steuart kept up his sleeves.**