



Tile Heritage Foundation

for research and preservation of ceramic surfaces

Formed in July 1987 Tile Heritage just entered into its 25th year this summer. Supporters like YOU... members, sponsors, donors, grantors... everyone... have made possible the continued fulfillment of the foundation's mission to Preserve, Protect and Document tile history both past and present.

E-News for Fall 2011

Here's What's Below

Presidential Inquiry
Hartford House
Ehling's Mastery of Mosaic
Cal Art Re-Creation
L'esperance Tile Works
China Painters Sought
"Shenandoah Life"
Lincoln Park Bench



The hands of master ceramists Xinia Marin and Peter King.
See Whidbey Workshop. Photo by Claudia Riedener.



Here's Who We Are

Brechelle Ware hails from Twisp, Washington, commuting to Healdsburg every six weeks or so for a 10-day stint at Tile Heritage. Formally Bre is the Collections Manager - informally the "Queen of Done" as she is forever completing tasks of an infinite variety. For the past three years, perhaps more, her primary focus has been overseeing the digitizing of the Foundation's slide library. This task is now complete, although the metadata must still be added to each image. Currently, there are 35,455 images in the Aperture database, over 20,000 of which are from slides: 12,300 of contemporary artists and artisans and historic tiles; nearly 5000 of installations in the U.S. and nearly 3000 of foreign installations.

Support the ARCHIVES with a donation? [Click here!](#)

Here's More of Who We Are

Dale Wiley first got mixed up with Tile Heritage in the late 1980s when, as a naive and fledgling tile maker, she was invited to serve on the board. She held this position for twelve years, and somewhere in there (no one really remembers when anymore) she began working very part time as the Membership Renewals Secretary--a position she holds to this day because of her enchantment with tile and her abiding love and respect for the organization and its founders.

Dale no longer messes about with clay; when she has time, she dabbles in paint and pastels, imitating her favorite subject: nature. However, most of her time these days is consumed by teaching art to challenging but lovable teens at a continuation high school.

Time to renew your membership? [Click here!](#)



Dale Wiley at her desk in the THF 'post office.'



Alistair Hamilton - seen here with the 'Rocket Tile' (made by Josh Blanc, Clay Squared to Infinity) awarded to him by Tile Heritage for his high-octane, ceaseless energy and involvement with the development and maintenance of all of the Foundation's technological needs. Drawing from his skills and experience he keeps things purring along like a well oiled machine from the redesign of the current website to constantly ensuring that software and equipment is updated and fully functioning.

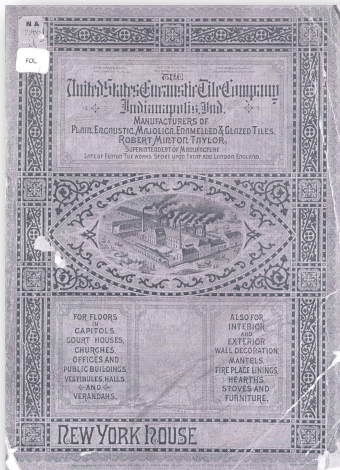
Thank you Alistair, the **Tile Heritage Most Valuable Volunteer**, for providing a generous and ongoing 'gift-in-kind' for the organization.

Alistair has worked on creative projects across many types of media for over 10 years -- combining interactivity, video, and motion graphics to create rich user experiences. As a designer at Wells Fargo Bank, he works with his team to create various multimedia for the corporate online bank. When working as a freelance designer, he combines traditional graphic design, 3D animation, video, and motion graphics to create high impact visuals for clients ranging from non-profits to commercial organizations.

Presidential Inquiry

Jennifer E. Capps, Curator at the **Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site**, 1230 North Delaware Street in Indianapolis, emailed Tile Heritage in September:

I am doing some research on tiles in front of a fireplace at the Benjamin Harrison Home. The photos, in black and white or sepia in color, are from 1888 and one slightly earlier. Would you by chance have a suggestion of color by looking at the tile pattern? We do have original wallpaper from this room and the original marble mantel. I have attached a couple of photos showing the original tiles and a modern photo showing what the mantel and room look like today. We are hoping to put back tiles to more closely resemble the 1880s photos.



USETCo product catalog, circa 1890.

Jennifer, I think we can help:

One would have to assume that the original hearth tiles were produced at the **United States Encaustic Tile Company** in Indianapolis. From a poor photocopy of a circa 1890 product catalog from this company, we have scanned the cover of the catalog, the first couple of pages that describe the tiles, and lastly a page with a hearth illustration (No. 161) that closely matches the original one in the Harrison house. As you will appreciate from reading the description in "Plain or Geometrical Tiles," your hearth tiles were geometrical (also referred to as geometrics) and the colors of the tiles are right there for you to choose from (your guess would be as

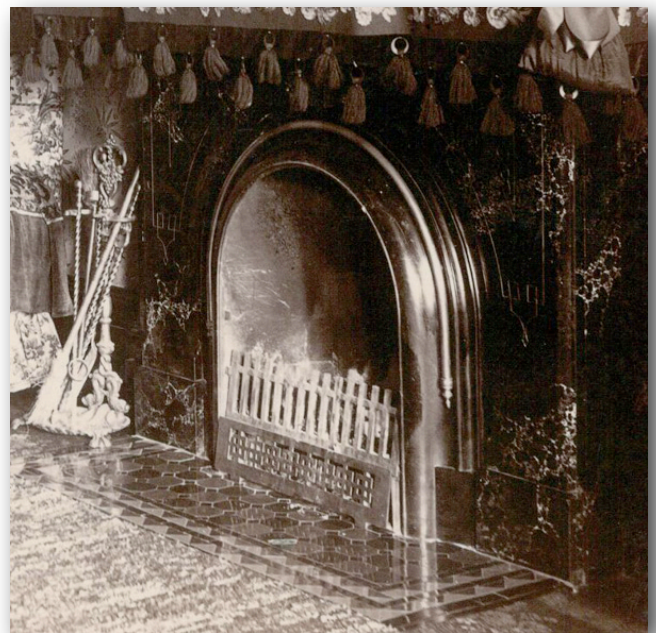
good as ours as to the original colors). Also read "Glazed Tiles." We think, judging from the pictures you sent, that your hearth tiles were glazed with a clear glaze as described, hence the resulting glossy surfaces, commonly preferred in late 19th century homes.

See attached pdf. We have found that opening the pdf in Preview or Photoshop, and then enlarging each page, provides the clearest image.

Glad we could help. Let us know if you need recommendations of tile makers.



Library at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site in Indianapolis.



Original fireplace in the library at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site in Indianapolis.



What Can You Tell Me?

From Nancy A. Rankin, AIA, LEED AP

John G. Waite Associates, Architects PLLC

New York, NY

www.JGWAarchitects.com

We're looking for help in identification of these original tiles from Hartford House, a former mansion in Valhalla, NY designed by Mann & MacNeille in 1927; the building was completed before 1932. We haven't seen the tiles themselves, but have the attached pictures; size appears to be 6x6. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

We're happy to help.

Yours is a "faience" tile produced by the **American Encaustic Tiling Company**, most likely in its factory in Zanesville, Ohio. A "faience" tile is one manufactured in the U.S. to look like a handmade tile, which it is not. These tiles became especially popular during the 1920s in reaction to the handmade tiles of the Arts and Crafts movement in this country. It's a beauty and Hartford Hall is gorgeous!

Cheers!





Ehling's Mastery of Mosaic

George Ehling's master work is embodied in his home in the Hollywood Hills, which he bought in 1967. The house was built in 1927, the same year Ehling was born.

George Ehling, a former professional wrestler, actor and

carpenter for the movie studios has been creating mosaics by hand throughout the house for 40 years. Like Watts Towers' [Simon Rodia](#), Ehling also uses found materials such as wine and beer bottle bottoms and tiles people have thrown out. He then cuts the discarded materials down to size to create the tesserae he needs for his intricate tile work.



George Ehling surrounded by his Malibu Potteries tiled entrance.



Ehling has left almost no part of his home untouched. Inspired by Roman, Byzantine, Renaissance and Moorish mosaics, the tile work ranges from simple, repetitive motifs to complex portraits (including a self-portrait). Colorful, elaborate ceramic inlays decorate the arches, columns, and ceilings, all done by hand, all designed by the self-taught artist. For more see <http://www.californiahomedesign.com/blog/hollywood-hills-tile-house-took-40-years-and-lot-patience>



Cal Art Re-Creation

Winged Dog Tile, as they say, is a small tile company with a funny name, but they're serious about producing well-crafted, handmade tile. Blending the skills and talents of two artists from two different disciplines, the couple began making tiles in Sacramento in 1992 and will soon be celebrating 20 years of outrageous electric bills.

David Vargo is a professional sculptor/ceramist. His personal work incorporates dogs interacting in human environments—his work can be found in several major collections and museums. He also teaches ceramics and sculpture. In a prior life **Sandra Cosner** was an art director who designed print collateral for a variety of clients and nonprofit organizations.

Inspired by the array of fireplace mantels in the Tile Heritage Foundation's Summer E-News, the couple emailed with a mantel of their own making: a complete re-creation of a **California Art Tile Company** mantel from the 1920s. The original fireplace, which was located in Petaluma, California had been ruined by an earthquake and subsequent water damage. The homeowner's insurance generously covered the cost of remaking these vintage tiles!

And **Winged Dog Tile** has the molds if anyone is interested in a replica of this Cal Art fireplace. See <http://www.wingeddoggtile.com/>



L'esperance Tile Works: Sure-fired Beauty

By Akum Norder

The century-old tiled fireplace stood out like a broken tooth. Its central design was supposed to be a three-tile panel of a reclining Roman soldier, but the first tile -- the soldier's head and chest -- was missing. The team restoring this California home asked: Could **Linda Ellett**, founder of **L'esperance Tile Works** outside of Saratoga Springs, re-create the missing tile? See the article: <http://alloveralbany.com/features/>

Seeking Images of China Painted Work

Paul Lewing and **Marci Blattenberger** are going to be presenting a lecture on china paint at next year's NCECA (National Conference on Education in the Ceramic Arts) in Seattle. The lecture will focus on the history of china paint and on what contemporary china painters and clay artists are doing today. If you use china paint on your tile, they would love to include some images of your work. Send by email to pjlewing@comcast.net or mail on CD to Paul Lewing, 105 N 200th St., Shoreline, WA 98133. This will be a PowerPoint presentation, so images do not need to be as high resolution as for printing, but it's fine if they are.

Thank you!

Paul Lewing

www.paullewingtile.com

www.paullewingart.com



“Shenandoah Life”

The mosaic mural was designed and directed by ceramicist **Joan Gardiner** of Unison, Virginia and **Gale Bowman-Harlow** of Opus Oaks – An Art Place -- for the Barns of Rose Hill Center in Berryville, Virginia.



Mizue Croswell, Fortune Island Pottery, is shown photographing her self-portrait.

The “Shenandoah Life” mosaic, measuring 14’ wide x 8’ high, the most significant permanent art installation in The Barns Center, is visible upon entering the facility. Images of the Shenandoah River and Blue Ridge establish a background for the terra-cotta figures that refer to the visual and performing arts, each one assigned to a favorite local artist. The project brought together Opus Oaks students, interns and teachers along with many others volunteers from the local art community. The mural was dedicated on October 9, 2011.

The Barns of Rose Hill announced the receipt of grants from the Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust and the Marion Park Lewis Foundation. The Gwathmey Trust awarded a grant of \$12,000 toward the creation of the “Shenandoah Life” mural project; the Marion Park Lewis Foundation granted \$3,000, \$1,800 of which was designated for the mosaic. The mission of The Barns is to create a space to celebrate life, the arts, and our culture; to educate in ways meaningful to our people; and to offer enhancement of the quality of life to our community and to visitors to our small town.



Joan Gardiner represents Sarah Bernhardt playing ‘Hamlet.’



Riley Doty meticulously installs the rectangles from Heath Ceramics.

which she created with **Colette Crutcher**.

The imagery for the Lincoln Park bench was derived from historic photographs from the 1890s, including the Sutro Baths and the Midwinter International Exposition in 1894, filtered through Barr's creative vision. The tiles themselves were produced in Barr's ceramic studio in San Francisco, supplemented by the rectangular tiles supplied by Heath Ceramics in Sausalito.



Aileen Barr, artist and tile maker, poses on the bench with two of her tile setters, Phylece and Justin Unverricht.

Tiling the Lincoln Park Bench

California Street in San Francisco rises as it approaches its western terminus at Lincoln Park, meeting a set of concrete steps dating to the early 1900s that lead up to Lincoln Park in the Richmond District of the city. Thanks to the Friends of Lincoln Park, there is now a beautiful new tiled bench that greets you as you ascend.

The bench is the most recent creation of mosaic artist and tile maker, **Aileen Barr**, already recognized in San Francisco for the award-winning 16th Avenue Tiled Steps at Golden Gate Heights (see www.tiledsteps.org),



Phylece Snyder collaborates with Riley Doty on many Bay Area installations.

Installation of the tiles was a challenge, expertly handled by **Riley Doty** and **Phylece Snyder**, an incomparable "tag-team" of talent, with assistance from **Justin Unverricht**.

The bench represents the first of three phases of this neighborhood restoration. Pillars on either side of the steps will be tiled next followed by the tiling of the stair risers. An inspired look at the overall project including a schematic drawing of the proposed pillars and risers can be seen by clicking [here](#).

And for a closer look at the spirited artist, see [Aileen Barr](#).



Peter King works the clay on Whidbey Island.

morning they begin by showing slides of their enormous body of work, amazing photos that demonstrate the process involved in large scale projects from the beginning to the end—from the proposed space to the studio where the forms are built and the clay is shaped and then to the final installation. Also included are slides of places the couple has traveled, including the buildings and spaces they have found to be inspirational along the way. Day after day the group was energized, ready to get their hands in clay!



Xinia Marin number-codes the pillar's pieces.

Stonehaus Workshop on Whidbey

The talented team of **Peter King** and **Xinia Marin** from **Stonehaus** in Pensacola, Florida engaged a group of clay enthusiasts for a 5-day architectural ceramics workshop on Whidbey Island, directly following a Potters Council conference in Seattle in late June 2011 where the esteemed couple had been presenters. The workshop was hosted by **Carol Rose Dean**, Dean Tile and Design, on Whidbey Island.

Peter and Xinia are extremely dynamic instructors, and a 5-day workshop is barely long enough to get a handle on the myriad clay techniques they use to make their pieces. Each



After the initial slide show, the class went out to the front of the building to evaluate the space for the proposed piece they would be making together. The decision was made to do pillars on either side of the entrance, with a connecting arch overhead. The next step was to build a wooden form the size of the piece, adding 10% for shrinkage. When that was finished, the clay work began. The twelve participants then rolled out two 2-foot by 10-foot slabs to serve as the pillars. Decoration ensued. Then the pillars were cut into pieces, allowed to dry, and then bisque-fired. At present the pillars are taking up space on the studio floor waiting to be glazed and fired... Hopefully the finished piece will be installed and photographed in the springs of 2012.

Special thanks to Carol Rose Dean, Dean Tile & Design and to Claudia Riedener, Ixia Tile Tacoma for providing the pictures.

Announcing something NEW & EXCITING!

For quite some time the Tile Heritage Foundation has 'desired to aspire' to selling lovely collectible contemporary art tiles from member artists as a permanent feature of the THF website. **VISIT!** This special 'Tile Store' page is now a reality and showcased. ART TILES are a wonderful gift to give all year long! Tiles are offered by individual THF member artisans in support of the Tile Heritage Foundation. Selling a specific tile at this site where a percentage of sales support THF is open to all current THF members who make tiles. Email: foundation@tileheritage.org for details on how to participate. We are looking forward to offering a large array of beautiful tiles!

Tile Heritage Foundation Artisan Tiles for Sale



[Carrie Anne Parks-Kirby](#)



[Dannenbeck Studios](#)



[Janet Ontka Clay Forms](#)



[Marcia Hovland](#)

Not a THF member? . . . Join Tile Heritage Today! www.tileheritage.org

*** With an Annual Membership Contribution of \$100 or more, we will link your website to THF!**

All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Benefits of Membership

As a member of Tile Heritage you become an advocate for the identification and preservation of significant installations throughout the United States.

As a member you directly support the preservation of the archives and collections at the Tile Heritage Foundation, which feature publicly accessible information and examples representing U.S. tile makers, business records of selected dealers and installers, an extensive assortment of historic catalogs, periodicals and photography, all covering the last 150 years up to the present time.

You will be assisting in the continued development of a unique library of information and archival materials that are available to the public for purposes of research, restoration and preservation.

The Tile Heritage archives, tiles and related materials represent one of the largest public collections in the country! The tiles, all properly accessioned, are available to galleries and museums for display and exhibitions as well as to members for personal examination.

As a member you have the opportunity to join with hundreds of others to build your personal 'archive for posterity' at Tile Heritage, adding to it at your convenience with information, images and tiles.

We offer you a free listing in the THF Resource Directory, which is revised annually and distributed nationally. We also offer opportunities to link your website to Tile Heritage!

Member discounts are offered on selected merchandise, services and events - all of which support and benefit the Foundation.

Tile Heritage keeps you connected with impartial tile news, multiple tile resources nationwide.

The Foundation provides ceramic education resources and links for teachers and community leaders nationwide.

Your support is contributing to the preservation of a national treasure: tiles and other ceramic surfacing materials made and installed in the American tradition.

[Make a donation to the Doty Grant Fund*](#) (YOUR CONTRIBUTION FUNDS RESEARCH !)