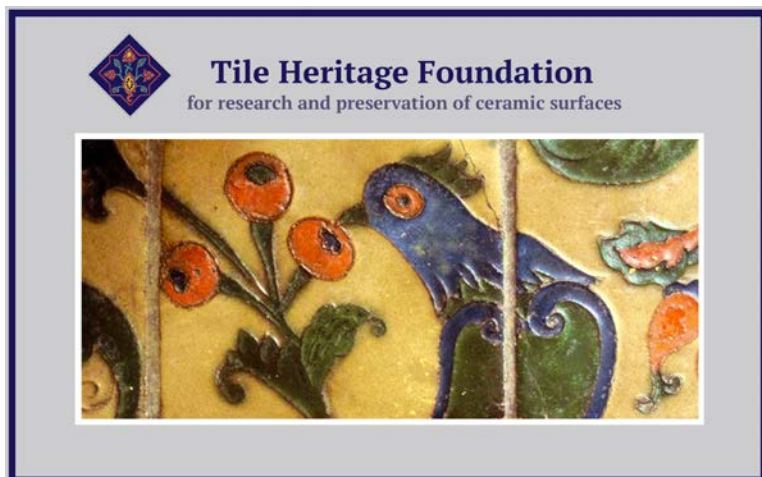


Tile Heritage Foundation: Guardian of American Tile History



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 history 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 19th century "tilewright" at the Mosaic Tile Company in Zanesville, Ohio scrapes away excess clay from a tile mold. At left, a patented process for manufacturing mosaics (No. 537703 dated Apr. 16, 1895) provided Mosaic Tile Co. with a potential means of competing with its neighbor, American Encaustic Tiling Co., by making multilayered or multicolored tiles faster and less expensively. Photos from the Tile Heritage Digital Library.

Manufacturing represents the cornerstone of the tile industry.



Mosaic Tile Company, Zanesville, Ohio, circa 1910

After seven years modeling for American Encaustic, Herman Mueller along with his fellow ceramist Karl Langenbeck left in 1894 to establish the Mosaic Tile Company, also in Zanesville. With a year, in April of 1895, Mueller was granted a patent for the “Process of and Apparatus for Manufacturing Mosaics,” an encaustic tile that imitated fine mosaics.

Although Mueller referred to the tile as “mosaic,” the decorative patterns were executed in small tesserae shapes of clay one-eighth inch square that extended through the clay body. Along with a series of individual motifs, large mosaic murals were produced like the pictorial mural at the Moerlin Bottling Department in Cincinnati, the facade of St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Zanesville, the “Eureka” panels throughout the main floor of the California State Capitol Building in Sacramento (replaced in recent years with Heath tile), and the “Presidential Seal” in the center of the floor at the National Building Museum in Washington DC (see previous page).



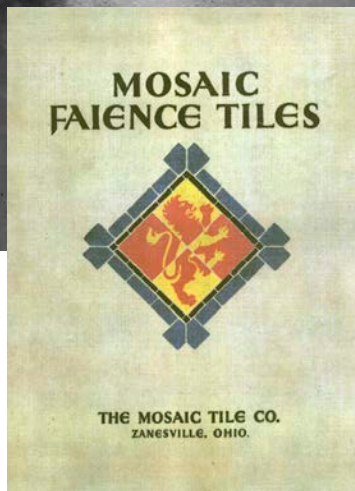
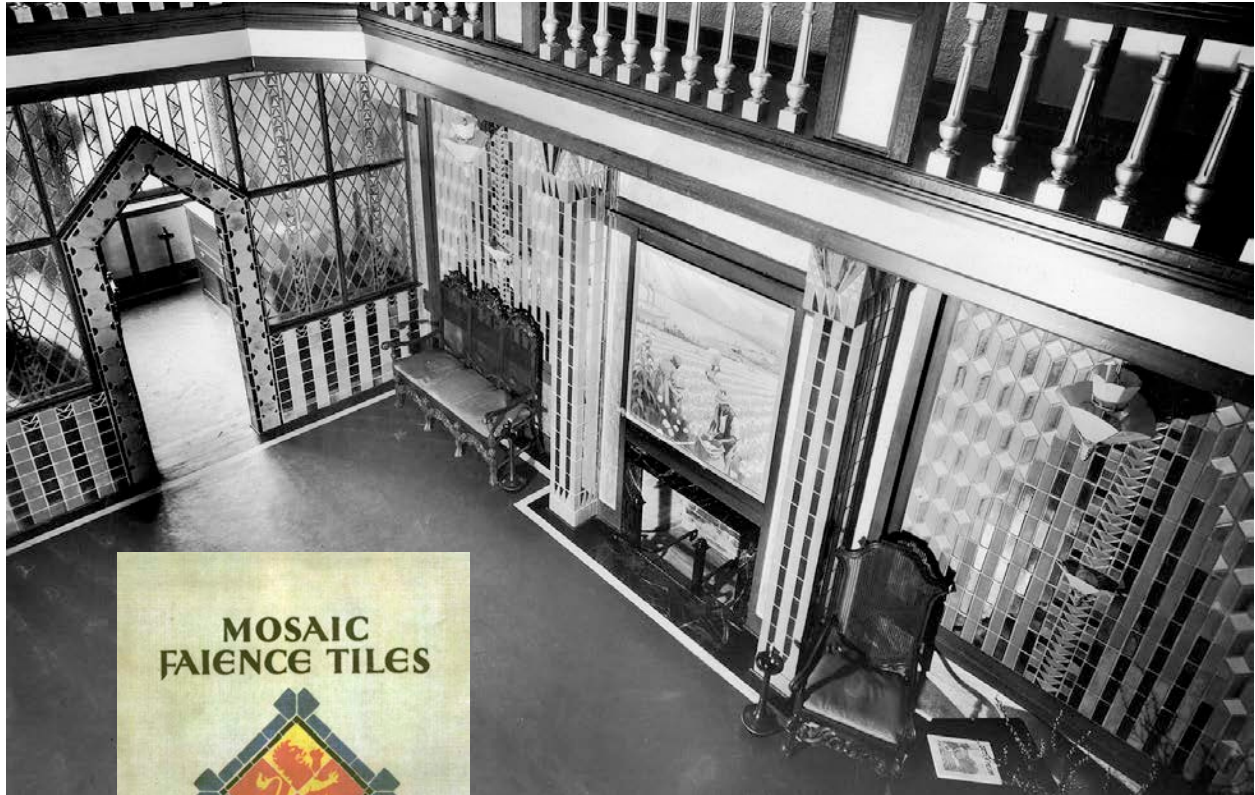
Tympanum, St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 925 E. Main St., Zanesville.



Herman C. Mueller, circa 1890

The primary goal of the Tile Heritage Foundation is to assist in the preservation of ceramic 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.

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



Tile showroom of J. A. Finn Co., 31 Madison Ave., New York City, exclusively featuring Mosaic Tile Company's products, circa 1930. Designed by Paul A. Faire. Tile Contractor: M. F. Welch.

During the last half of the 1920s and into the 1930s a number of tile manufacturers provided exclusive representation to independent showrooms to sell their products sometimes in addition to hosting showrooms themselves. There were competitive advantages for tile companies to do so. No doubt Mosaic Tile was well aware of their Zanesville rival, American Encaustic, bankrolling its exotic and successful showroom in Manhattan just ten blocks to the north. Photos gift of Julie Mackall, Gilbertson Collection.



Office of J. A. Finn Co. immediately adjacent to the showroom.

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

Robert Howden, without question a “self-made man,” chose tile setting for what became an illustrious career. Born in Scotland in 1863, the youngest of eleven children, he worked half time in the woolen mills from age 9, leaving school entirely at 13 to work full time. During this time he worked in six different mills while attending seven different schools!



Robert with two of his three grandchildren, Ed and Betty, broke ground for the Howden Building in 1925.


Despite his losses business was booming during the reconstruction period following the quake. By the time he was breaking ground for the Howden Building at 17th and Webster, in his own words: “I had made the name Robert Howden a household word”!

Note: The original tile showroom in the Howden Building remains virtually intact today, featuring Batchelder, Claycraft and Solon & Schemmel tiles as well as housing a popular cafe.



The Howden Building at 17th and Webster Streets in Oakland, CA.

In 1882 at age 19 he immigrated to the U.S. settling in Minneapolis and took a job as a helper in a mantel and tile business; a year later he became a “full-fledged” (his word) setter. He married in 1887 and soon moved to Tacoma before discovering the Bay Area on his return from the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. Oakland became his home where he rented a store, fitted up a display in front, and lived in the rear with his wife and three children. Soon he bought a house and moved with his family there. Next he bought a lot for cash and built a 2-story brick building for his tile business, completing the work just three months before the 1906 earthquake.



*Reception Room of Robert Howden & Sons
Tiles for Interior and Exterior*

*The Home of
Beautiful Tiles*

We specialize in distinctive
tile design and installation.
PHONE OAKLAND 1983
1628 Webster Street — Oakland, Calif.

**ROBERT
HOWDEN
& SONS**

***Identification encourages both maintenance
and restoration of historic tile installations.***



Homeowner in Dallas, Texas was told that his 1926 fireplace was from the Rookwood Pottery. Could it be true? No, the tiles were produced by California Clay Products Co., popularly known as “Calco,” located in South Gate, California and referred to as “Mayan Art” in the company’s 1930 catalog.



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 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.

The archives held by THF are of national importance—they tell our story. We are all part of this heritage!



The owner of this early 1920s Tudor Revival home in Birmingham, Alabama suspected that her tiles were Batchelder’s but needed confirmation. She contacted Tile Heritage to find out and received the cleaning recommendations she asked for along with the verification of her suspicions.

***Preservation of significant installations
is of paramount importance.***



Original ceramic tile mural (11' x 45') designed and produced by Guillermo Wagner Granizo for the City of Monterey for the façade of the city's Conference Center. Tile Heritage Digital Library.

In 1983 the City of Monterey (California) commissioned Guillermo Wagner Granizo to design a tile mural (11' x 45') depicting the history of this coastal community for the exterior of the city's Conference Center. The city, needing to renovate the Center, made the decision to have the mural removed in 2015, all 633 pieces of 9" x 12" tile. The arduous task was awarded to Architectural Resources Group in San Francisco. In the process 65 of the tiles were broken, most in multiple pieces.

Imagine the care involved in just securing each of the tiny pieces, keeping the pieces for each broken tile separate, reconfiguring what goes where once back in the studio, and finally the skill involved in adhering the pieces together and masking the repairs! The mural was successfully reinstalled at the Center by C. L. Frost Inc. in November 2018.

Before restoration



After restoration



Pietro "Pete" Ferrante (1867-1954), considered by many the "father" of sardine fisheries in Monterey Bay, inspired the success of the canning industry on Cannery Row.



The restored and re-installed historic ceramic tile mural (11' x 45') designed and produced by Guillermo Wagner Granizo for the City of Monterey for the façade of the city's Conference Center. Photo courtesy of Ron Wagner.

To be most effective, education necessitates direct “hands-on” communication.

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.



Tile contractor demonstrates the proper use of a trowel.

Publishing is central to the Foundation’s outreach. Between 1988 and 2003 Tile Heritage published 42 issues of “Flash Point” (ISSN 1078-5647). Since 2004 “E-News” and “Shards & Snippets” have served as the Foundation’s principal means of communication. Since 2016 THF has resumed the annual publication of *Tile Heritage: A Review of American Tile History* (ISSN 1978-5655) featuring articles by the leading tile historians in America.



From their earliest ages children have a natural attraction to soft clay.

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 inquiries from throughout the United States.



Adults too find clay irresistible!

***Workshops hosted or attended by Tile Heritage
augment the educational objectives of the Foundation.***



Internationally recognized architectural ceramists, Peter King (left) and Xinia Marin (above) of Stonehaus in Pensacola, Florida, present a workshop in Seattle for Artisan Tile Northwest.



Tile Heritage joins with others for a week “playing” with mosaics at “Heaven on Earth” in Todos Santos on the Baja Peninsula, Mexico.



Workshop in Davis, California (left) results in four decorative pillars supporting a palapa in Palm Desert, CA



“Keeping the Craft Alive,” an integral part of the Foundation’s mission, brings the importance of tile’s heritage into studios throughout the United States and beyond.

The library at Tile Heritage contains file folders on over 700 contemporary tile artists and artisans in the U.S., the folders representing only those who have sent their information to the Foundation with intention. No doubt there are hundreds of additional studios in the country whose work is currently not represented. Since the Foundation’s inception in 1987, there has evolved a sense of community that assists in keeping the craft alive.



Preparing a custom job in Park City, Utah.



Sculpting clay for a commercial project in San Diego.



Visiting a manufacturer’s showroom in Portland, OR.



Applying glaze to a lofted mural in Torrance, California.



Removing excess clay from a molded tile in Milanville, PA.

Tile Heritage tours to Europe provide opportunities once we return with new friends and broader perspectives.



Leaving the Jackfield Tile Museum at Ironbridge Gorge (above), the tour group gathers in Nottingham (left).



First stop in the Netherlands is the tile museum in Otterlo followed by a tour and demonstrations at the Makkum Tile Factory where traditional Dutch tiles are produced (right).



After the better part of a day at the tile museum in Lisbon (right), this group enjoys the spectacular display of Rococo *azulejaria* throughout the gardens at *Quinta dos Azulejos* in Lumiar, resting upon the benches in the semicircular pergola.



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**

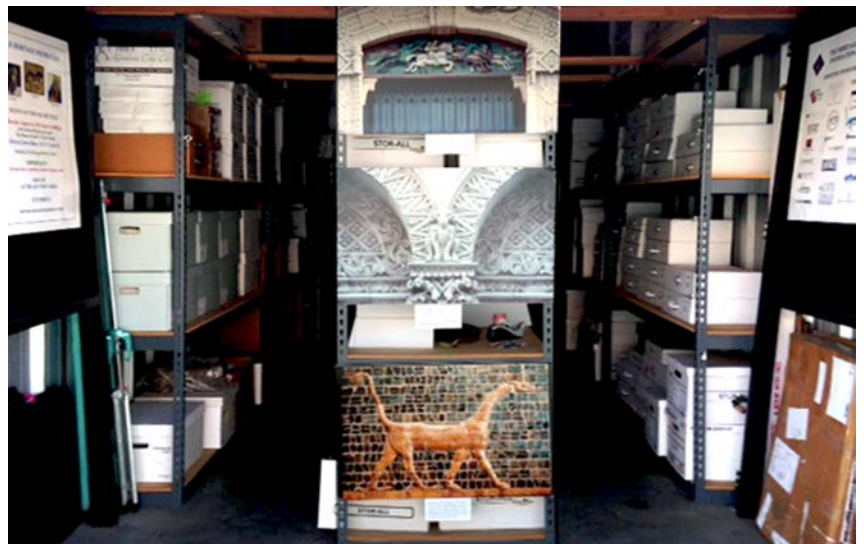
The tile collection alone contains over 4000 different glazed and decorative samples from scores of American companies dating to the late 19th century. All of the tiles in the collection have been donated; Tile Heritage does not buy or sell historic material.

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 90 tile-related periodicals dating back to the 1880s.

"Tile Heritage represents the 'soul' of the industry in America."

Donato Grosser



Tile Heritage Foundation's archived periodical collections.

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 34 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.

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

TEAM UP WITH TILE HERITAGE!

Email: foundation@tileheritage.org

www.tileheritage.org



Tile enthusiasts tour installations in Philadelphia.

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.

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!

"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

An INVITATION to the GLOBAL TILE INDUSTRY

to Join in a Celebration of our Tile Community by leaving a HAND-PRINT at TCNA!
Partner in this FUN & INSPIRING OPPORTUNITY!



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A DONOR MURAL at TCNA!

Have a HAND in it with a Signature Tile made for your Company!

Custom Tile Contribution: \$250. Funds cover the studio production and the shipping to TCNA as well as a link in the Tile Heritage Member Gallery. We'll email you an Image of your tile!

Importantly, your company will be permanently recognized at TCNA on a donor plaque as well as in the Hand Print Mural.

... HAVE A HAND IN IT. ... to participate go to ...

<https://www.tileheritage.org/pdfs/HPWebpost9-19.pdf> for an on-line fillable form!

The GLOBAL TILE INDUSTRY ...
... YOU have a HAND in it!

... a donor wall for posterity - www.tileheritage.org

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Secure your PLACE in this
HISTORIC donor wall
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Here's How ...

Have a SIGNATURE Hand Print Tile
PRODUCED for YOUR Company!