

TILE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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What is the current vital educational activity of the Tile Heritage Foundation?

Tile Heritage Archives, Collections, Finding Aid development

Since the inception of the Foundation in 1987, ingathering tile related documents, images and tile-related information for scholarly and public dissemination has been the goal. In addition, Tile Heritage strives to protect its archives for posterity as cultural treasures. A strategic plan is in place for the continued development of a finding aid and database index of the Tile Heritage Foundation Archival Research and Resource Library and Collections.

Due to the continuing requests for information as an educational tool, THF has been engaged in significantly improving the accessibility of its library, archives and collections. Over the past fifteen years findable databases have been built for the archives, the digital image collection, the tile collection as well as the catalog and the periodical collections, which consists of over 40,000 documents, 44,000+ digital images and more than 4,000 American ceramic tiles dating back to the late 19th century, all donated.

To date approx. 470 historic & 780 contemporary tile company files have been categorically and chronologically archived into a Finding Aid database. Other areas of the Foundation's assets include files for significant tile installations in cities, states and foreign countries; there are files as well for architectural terra cotta companies, historians & important individuals. In addition, the archives contain the Foundation's 35 years of organizational records and databased records of over 1000 historic and contemporary catalogs and periodical publications related to ceramic tile.

The archival data continues to be organized and cataloged currently (2022). The Foundation will continue to develop, post, and finally publish an online finding-aid index of published and unpublished records as well as other resources including samplings from the tile collections, tile image databases as well as links to existing THF published indices.

Tile Heritage blog-style website: <https://www.tileheritage.org>

Tile Heritage Foundation maintains an active, useful and educational website. Resources include a linked gallery of sponsors, artisans & advocates as well as resources like past and current "E-News," an online bulletin (2004-present), a calendar of events and workshops, tile industry related resources, Tile Heritage Research Services, educational videos and more.

... go to next page...

What have been the major educational activities of THF?

Here are examples of current & past partnerships as well as current endeavors.

Tile Heritage Educational Symposiums

Each event includes lectures, tours, exhibitions, workshops, public festivals and sales focused on tiles as a historic and culturally important decorative art form.

- “The Arts and Crafts Legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer,” Doylestown, PA (2 days).
Presented by: Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Buck County Historical Society and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Fired Treasures: A Wealth of Color and Design,” Malibu, Industry and Pasadena, CA (3 days).
Presented by: Malibu Lagoon Museum, Homestead Museum and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles of Ohio: Reflections of an American Industry,” Columbus, Zanesville, Greenfield, OH (3 days). Presented by: Ohio Historical Society and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles & Tradition: A Celebration of Color and Design,” San Jose, CA (4 days).
Presented by: San Jose Historical Museum and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles in the Motor City: Crafting a Lustrous Place in History,” Detroit, MI (4 days).
Presented by: Pewabic Pottery and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles of Santa Barbara,” Santa Barbara, CA (3 days).
Presented by: NS Ceramic, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Natural History Museum and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles: A Living History,” Philadelphia and Doylestown, PA (5 days).
Presented by: Philadelphia Museum of Art, Moravian Pottery and Tile Works and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles of Erie: Preservation & Possibilities,” Erie, PA (4 days).
Presented by: Erie Art Museum, School District of Erie, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Spirit in Clay”: A Retreat Honoring the Art and Craft of Clay Work & Tile Making, Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico (6 days).
Presented by: Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles in the Capital: A Monumental Legacy,” Washington DC (4 days).
Presented by: Art Museum of the Americas, Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian, American Art Museum and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles in the Twin Cities: The Quintessence of Handicraft,” Minneapolis and Saint Paul, MN (4 days). Presented by: American Swedish Institute, Handmade Tile Association, Minnesota Historical Society, The Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Tile Heritage Foundation
- “Tiles of the Northern Plains: Building on Tradition,” Duluth and Minneapolis, MN (8 days).
Presented by: Handmade Tile Association and Tile Heritage Foundation.

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Tile Heritage Festivals & Sales of Art Tiles

“Tile Festival & Sale” with THF lectures at the Oakland Museum in coordination with the museum’s exhibition of Arequipa Pottery.

“Clay Expectations, a Festival of Tiles and Mosaics” at the historic Howden Building, Oakland, CA (2 days). Lectures, tours & workshops. Organized and curated by Tile Heritage Foundation.

Annual “Tile Festival & Sale” sponsored by Artisan Tile Northwest, Seattle, WA (2 days). A gathering of ceramic artists and artisans selling their ware, Tile Heritage selling tiles that have been donated by tile makers to sell at the event.

Annual “Tile Festival & Sale” sponsored by the TileWorks, Doylestown, PA (2 days). A gathering of ceramic artists and artisans selling their ware, Tile Heritage selling tiles that have been donated by tile makers to sell at the event.

Annual “Clay Festival,” Silver City, NM. Tile history lecture, artisan tile auction, hand-building of an adobe bake oven in a community workshop. Tile Heritage was a collaborative co-presenter and sponsor with Syzygy Tileworks for this event.

Tile Heritage Tours at Home and Abroad (groups of 15-20)

“Get On the Bus With Us.”

Tile Tour in Ohio (5 days), centered in Canton, OH and touring factories and studios in Canton, Summitville, Minerva, Uhrichsville, Zoar, Sugar Creek, Wooster & Attica.

“Tile Tour of England” (7 days)

Presented by: Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society and Tile Heritage Foundation

“Tile Tour of Portugal” (7 days)

Daily bus tours to historic tile sites in Lisbon, Sintra, Cascais, Setubal, Caldas da Rainha.

“Tile Tour of the Netherlands” (5 days)

Historic tile factories, tile museum exhibitions, installations – in multiple cities

Exhibitions & catalogs where Tile Heritage Foundation was directly involved.

Oakland Museum, Oakland CA. *The Arts & Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life*. Curator, Kenneth Trapp - incs. Exhibition catalog of the same title. Tile Heritage loaned historic materials and tiles for this exhibition. Joseph A. Taylor was a contributing essay writer for the exhibition catalog.

SFMOMA Exhibition: *California Pottery: From Missions to Modernism* and again at the Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles. Tiles on loan.

California Heritage Museum, Santa Monica, CA. *California Tile, the Golden Era, 1910 - 1940*. Curator, Cristi Walden. Tile Heritage loaned materials for this event. Exhibition catalog of the same title in 2 volumes, Joseph A. Taylor, Editor.

Atheneum, Library Association of La Jolla, CA. *Ceramic In Its Own (W)rite: The Word Made Clay*. Juried by Richard Shaw. 53 artists entered; 32 were accepted. See <https://www.ljatheneum.org/exhibitions-archive/2003-ceramics>

San Francisco International Airport Museums. *The Rich History and Tradition of California Art Tile*. An exhibition in collaboration with Tile Heritage for tiles and imagery.

Literally millions of people walked through this exhibition in the North Terminal for nearly two years.

Coverings, Orlando, FL - Exhibition: *History of Tile*. Curated by Joseph A. Taylor and Sheila A. Menzies of Tile Heritage.

The American Museum of Ceramic Art / AMOCA, Pomona, CA. A collaboration with Potters Council, an arm of the American Ceramic Society Conference & Exhibition: *Inside Tile: Tools, Traditions, Techniques* provided the perfect venue for tile artists and artisans to get together with educators and to share their knowledge and expertise.

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens, Philadelphia, PA. Exhibition: *Tell-Tales Tiles & Fractured Fantasies*. Explored contemporary tile making and ceramic mosaic as a story-telling medium in the spirit of artists Henry Chapman Mercer and Isaiah Zagar.

Tile Heritage Foundation. Virtual Exhibition: *American Art Tile, From Sea to Shining Sea*. Presented and curated by the Tile Heritage Foundation. Online catalog: <https://www.tileheritage.org/pdfs/ATA2021-CatalogSMALLFILE-jtism.pdf>

“Keeping the Craft Alive”: Educational hands-on workshops over a multi-year period. Approx. sixty-three (63) offerings were presented nationally: Hands-on tile and mosaic making workshops took place in AZ, CA, FL, IA, ME, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, SC, TX, VA, WI.

Educational Events

Lectures

Tile Heritage has created numerous PowerPoint presentations that have been utilized during symposiums, lectures at historic sites, tile educational events and recently during virtual (ZOOM) sessions from 1991 to the present (2021).

COVERINGS™ International Tile & Stone Expositions

Tile Heritage Foundation has been sponsored annually for thirty plus years by Coverings International Tile & Stone Exposition to share the valuable cultural heritage of Ceramic Tile History and serve as an educational resource to the industry and the public. Tile Heritage has curated two historic tile on site exhibitions as well as numerous tile history videos and lectures for attendees' entertainment.

TSP - Total Solutions Plus

Tile Heritage is invited by its industry sponsors to this annual ceramic tile educational and networking event. The Foundation is an active participant providing educational resources.

... go to next page...

Book Contributors

The Arts & Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life – 1993. Exhibition catalog & essays. Joseph A. Taylor was a contributing writer: *Creating Beauty from the Earth: Tiles of California*.

Batchelder Tilemaker, by Robert Winter. “Foreword” by Joseph A. Taylor.

California Tile, the Golden Era, 1910 -1940 in two volumes.

Editor & contributing writer, Joseph A. Taylor, historian, Tile Heritage Foundation.

Catalina Tile of the Magic Isle, by Lee Rosenthal. “Foreword” by Joseph A. Taylor.

Ceramic Tile in 20th Century America, by John J. Sekora. Extensive use of the Tile Heritage Library and digital imagery.

Handmade Tiles: Designing, Making, Decorating, by Frank Giorgini. “The Handcrafted Tradition in Ceramic Tiles,” Chapter One, by Joseph A. Taylor, historian, Tile Heritage.

More About Malibu Potteries, by Ronald L. Rindge. Chapter 1 “Southern California’s Tile Heritage” by Joseph A. Taylor.

Motawi Tileworks, by Anne Stewart O’Donnell. “Foreword” by Joseph A. Taylor.

Tile Heritage Publications: Research & Writing for Periodicals

Tile Heritage, A Review of American Tile History (1994 - to the present). Joseph A. Taylor, Editor. Sheila A. Menzies, Designer.

“Flash Point” (1988-2003) Joseph A. Taylor, Editor (and contributing writer). Sheila A. Menzies, Designer.

“E-News” (2004 to the present). Joseph A. Taylor, Editor (and contributing writer from time to time). Sheila A. Menzies, Designer.

TCAA – “093000 Contractor” - tile Industry publication, Joseph Taylor, contributing writer: “History of Tile.”

NTCA - *Tile Letter- Artisan magazine* - tile Industry publication, Joseph A. Taylor & Sheila A. Menzies, Tile Heritage contributing writers on tile history.

Libraries with Tile Heritage publications

American Museum of Ceramic Art / AMOCA, Pomona, CA

Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, New York, NY (member of THF)

Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA (THF publications in library)

Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA (THF publications in library)

Library of Congress (two ISSN numbers)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (THF publications in library)

Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred, NY (THF publications in Scholes Library)

Winterthur, Winterthur, DE (THF publications in library)

Preservation recommendations

Over the past 37 years the Tile Heritage Foundation has been asked to write letters of support for the protection and preservation of tiles in situ on the exterior and interior of historic buildings, assisting in their preservation, thus receiving listed building or National Trust status.

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In addition, practically on a daily basis the Foundation is asked to identify tile installations in homes and other locations as well as asked to provide advice on cleaning and preserving tiles.

THF Doty Grants given for Primary Research in the field of ceramic surfaces.

The Doty Research Grant was established in 1992 to stimulate research in the field of ceramic tile history and conservation. Grants range from \$500 to \$5000 for any qualified individual who wishes to engage in primary research or in a preservation endeavor for the enhancement and protection of ceramic surfaces in the United States. Thus far more than \$35,000 has been granted to thirteen recipients, scholars and writers. Grants ranged from \$1500 to \$5000. These grants are funded entirely by donations from individuals and businesses, members of the Tile Heritage community who specifically contribute funds for this purpose in addition to their annual membership dues. Grant guidelines/applications are available at the Tile Heritage website.

Board of Directors of the Tile Heritage Foundation

Eric Astrachan, executive director Tile Council of North America, Anderson, SC

Josh Blanc, founder and president of Clay Squared to Infinity, Minneapolis

Lesley Goddin, editorial director and senior writer, TileLetter, TileLetter.com, TileLetter
ARTISAN, NTCA, Jackson, MS

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Sheila Menzies, founder and executive director Tile Heritage Foundation

Kathy Meyer, director of marketing Tile Council of North America, Anderson, SC

Ron Nash, president, COO Laticrete North America, Bethany, CT

Joseph Taylor, founder and president Tile Heritage Foundation

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Tile Heritage Foundation Major Sponsors

Arto Brick <https://www.arto.com>

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Curious Clay <http://www.curiousclay.com>

Fireclay Tile <https://www.fireclaytile.com>

Hovey Tile Art <https://www.subwaytile.com>

Material <https://www.explorematerial.com>

Mediterra Tile <https://mediterratile.com>

Merola Sales Co. Inc. <https://www.merolatile.com>

Metropolitan Ceramics <https://metroceramics.com>

Motawi Tileworks <https://motawitileworks.com>

NS Ceramic <https://www.nsceramic.com>

NTCA <https://www.tile-assn.com/default.aspx>

Pratt+Larson <https://prattandlarson.com>

Sonoma Tilemakers <https://sonomatilemakers.com>

TCAA <https://www.tcaainc.org>

TCNA <https://www.tcnatile.com>

Tileshop <https://www.tile-shop.com>

TotalSolutionsPlus <https://www.ctdahome.org/>

Wizard Enterprise <https://www.wizardenterprise.com>

WHY TILE.com <https://whytile.com>

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