

## **Tile Heritage Foundation Today**

**The Tile Heritage Foundation**, founded in 1987 and having amassed information about ceramic surfaces for thirty-five years, is today ideally positioned to provide information and related services to the industry and to the public to assist in the preservation of these culturally significant claddings.

**The primary goal of Tile Heritage** is to assist in the preservation of ceramics surfaces: 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. The body of information on hand, coupled with expertise resulting from over 80 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.

**The Foundation's library and research facility**, open to the public by appointment, contains a large selection of books, periodicals and product catalogs about tiles worldwide as well as files on companies that have produced, sold and installed tiles and architectural terra cotta in the United States during the past 150 years. In addition, the archives contain "open files" on contemporary tile artists and artisans, architectural ceramists, mosaicists, dealers and distributors as well as tile contractors, into which information is added as received. Also, many of these "open files" have a corresponding digital file of images of work in progress as well as completed projects.

**The Tile Heritage Collections**, consisting importantly of over 4000 historic tiles donated to the Foundation for safekeeping, represents one of the largest public collections in the country of decorative and glazed tiles from the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These tiles, which are professionally accessioned, are available to galleries and museums for display and exhibitions as well as to the public for personal examination. The historic tile catalog collection numbers over 1000 representing 180 companies; there are over 1100 tile-related books in the THF library and 134 titles in the periodical collection.

**Validation of the Art Form for Posterity** 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. To this end Tile Heritage opened the doorway through lectures, educational symposiums and hands-on tile and mosaic workshops. From these venues tile makers, dealers, distributors, installers, historians and collectors became linked with each other, utilizing the Foundation as a "hub" for communication and as a resource for information about the importance of tile making in both the historical and contemporary context.

**Today this integration is manifest in the Foundation's collaborative relations** with Tile Council of North America (TCNA), Ceramic Tile Distributors Association (CTDA), Tile Contractors' Association of America (TCAA), National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), Ceramic Tile Education Foundation (CTEF), Coverings, Friends of Terra Cotta (FOTC), Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA), The TileWorks of Bucks County, Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society in England (TACS).

**Over time as technology has advanced**, the means of communication and information gathering have altered the ways the Foundation operates, broadening the opportunities for those who wish to take advantage of the available resources. Augmented by the Foundation's website, [www.tileheritage.org](http://www.tileheritage.org), social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest and with a conscientious response to incoming email, messaging and phone inquiries, Tile Heritage provides the public with pertinent information within the industry and a viable resource for architects, designers, teachers, schools and the community at all educational levels.

**Document, Protect, Preserve, Ceramic Surfaces in America**

**Honoring the artistry of manufacturers and tile makers as well as the skill of installers of the past and present** through the archiving of their accomplishments validates the art for posterity. The Foundation is in the process of developing and maintaining this body of work as a living archive through applied technologies - digital files, imagery and finding-aid data-based indices soon to be found online.

The Foundation's website, [www.tileheritage.org](http://www.tileheritage.org), along with Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Pinterest, serves the public as a means of obtaining information about tiles and other ceramic surfacing materials. Historic tile catalogs as well as back issues of Tile Heritage publications are available for sale, and access to the Foundation's library and photographic archives is publicly available by appointment. Sponsors, manufacturers and contemporary tile artists, dealers and installers are honored in the **Member Tile Gallery** where images of their work are linked to their respective websites.

*Tile Heritage: A Review of American Tile History*, now in full color, is published each year and distributed to members. "E-News," a periodic report online as well as the ongoing web posts to **Shards 'n Snippets** keeps members apprised of what's happening at Tile Heritage as well as current events around the country. A Calendar of upcoming events and opportunities is maintained; a select number of online and in-person workshops across the country are featured throughout the year as well.

**A Virtual Tile Exhibition and links to Tile Heritage videos, some covering international installations, are posted at the Tile Heritage website.** Ongoing "Exhibitions" will be developed featuring the Foundation's permanent collection.

## **TEAM UP WITH TILE HERITAGE**

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) this is YOUR organization. **BECOME A MEMBER** or **SPONSOR** of the Tile Heritage Foundation!

UTILIZE & CONTRIBUTE to its resources. SUPPORT the archives for posterity. **DONATE!**

### **Benefits of Membership and Sponsorship:**

- Your company will be prominently displayed as a donor and supporter on the Tile Heritage website, print media and other media platforms.
- You will be sponsoring the ongoing research into the history of ceramic tile and other ceramic surfaces in the United States and abroad.
- You will be assisting in the continued development of a unique library of information and archival materials that are available to the industry and the public for purposes of research, restoration preservation and contemporary connections.
- You will become part of an international network of tile advocates & enthusiasts dedicated to preserving tiles, tile-related information and significant installations.
- You will receive *Tile Heritage Review*, "E-News" and Shards 'n Snippets periodically and the opportunity to link your company to the largest display of ceramic tile art online in the Member Tile Gallery. If a sponsor, you will have a banner listing as well, a free listing in the Tile Heritage Resource Directory, member discounts on historic tile catalogs as well as on related services offered by the Foundation.
- Most importantly, you can rest assured that your support is contributing to the preservation of a national treasure: tiles produced, sold and installed in the American tradition.

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