



## ***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 serves as 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 Seven Stages of Man," designed and crafted in the mid-1950s by Carl Zimmerman in ceramic mosaic from the Cambridge Tile Manufacturing Co. for the library at Princeton High School in Sharonville, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. Photo courtesy of Robert A. Flischel Photography, Cincinnati, Ohio.

***"... we have built a storehouse and filled it with books and letters, written and printed, private and public, a storehouse ever full, holding in trust all the dreams . . . sheltering hopes and wisdom, recording trials, failures and accomplishments."***

- Carl Zimmerman (1900-1985), Professor of Art at the University of Cincinnati

In like manner the Tile Heritage Foundation has developed an archive for the tile industry in the United States. In addition to the "books and letters" in its library, Tile Heritage storehouses a collection of historic American tiles, all one of a kind, from scores of different companies some dating back to the late 19th century as well as tiles from contemporary artisans. Add to this the collections of historic documents tile catalogs and tile-related periodicals covering a period of 135 years.

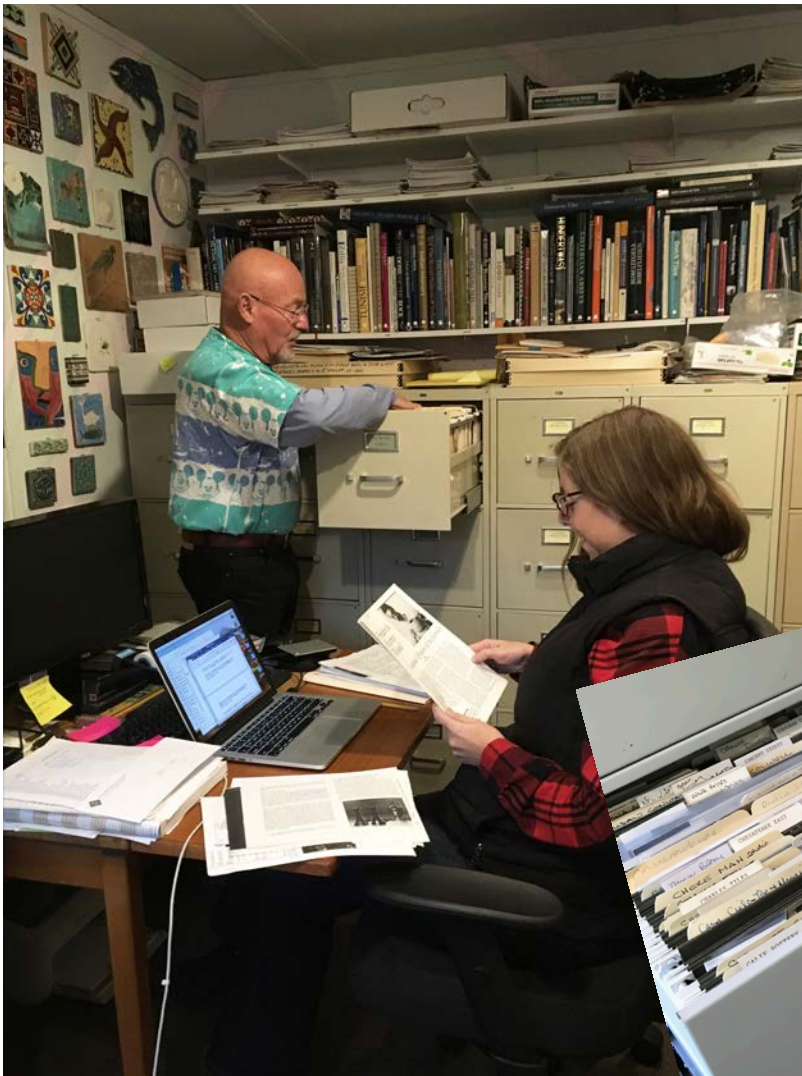
**Rest assured that this archive and the collections belong to All OF US!**

*The Foundation's Archive holds hundreds of valuable records of historic and contemporary American tile companies.*



## ***The Archives***

The heart of the archive is stored in individual alphabetized folders representing over 400 companies pre-1960 and over 700 post-1960. The contents of the files have been indexed and are available by emailing Tile Heritage.



Tile Heritage archivists Jim Hamilton and Jenny Meeker classify the material in each company's file folder, arranging information chronologically. All information is then entered into the Finding Aid Index, readily accessible and available to the public upon request.

Contemporary company folders in the THF archive.



***Tile manufacturing got underway in America inspired by the European displays at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876.***



Ornamental embossed tiles became the surface of choice for domestic fireplace surrounds.



American Encaustic Tiling Co., Zanesville, Ohio with these 6x6 embossed tiles represented in the Tile Heritage Collections. Surround gifted by Peter Cornelison and Anna Howe



6x6 embossed decorative produced by Providential Tile Works of Trenton, New Jersey (1886-1913).



4x4 embossed tile by Owen & Peirce of Newburgh, New York (1884-1891). Gift of Norman and Shannon Karlson

4x4 encaustic floor tile produced at International Tile & Trim, a company formed by English tile makers, in Brooklyn, New York (1882-1888). Honoring the late historian Susan Padwee.



Dubbed "Ceramic Florentine Mosaic," a patented encaustic tile designed by Herman Mueller in 1895, positioned the Mosaic Tile Company (1894-1972) to compete in the custom floor tile market. Gift of Kirby Brown



***There are many exceptional historic tiles in the Foundation's collection.***



Yosemite Falls 8" x 12"



Vernal Falls, Yosemite 8" x 12"

Claycraft Potteries: Yosemite Series, c. 1925  
Gift of Bart Huffman 1987, first gift of tiles to THF.



El Capitan, Yosemite 12" x 12"



Batchelder Tiles (1911-1939)  
Gift of the Trustees of the Ceramic Tile Institute



Tile No. 86 18" x 18"

Historic Tile Collections of the Tile Heritage Foundation consist of 4167 different individual tiles representing 48 American tile companies at the present time.



Tile No. 218A 4" x 8"

Among the companies represented with the largest number of tiles: American Encaustic Tiling Co. with over 800. Gifted by Norman and Shannon Karlson



"Knights." Tile No. 349B 12" x 36"



Custom made by for a tile contractor. 4" x 8"

Solon & Schemmel and Solon & Larkin number over 500. Gifted by Riley Doty



*... more valuable historic tiles ...*

## ***Muresque Tiles, Oakland, California (1925-1935)***

In 1991 as Tile Heritage was engaged in research for an upcoming Arts & Crafts exhibition at the Oakland Museum, we met with the late Irene Knops, the daughter of the founder of Muresque Tiles, who subsequently gifted the Tile Heritage Foundation a sizable selection of her father's personal tile collection. The company was little known at the time, and Muresque tiles provided a significant addition to the popular exhibition.



Selection of the 117 tiles gifted to Tile Heritage by Irene Knops



THF does not  
buy or sell  
historic tiles.

**The Foundation's collection includes many historic manufacturers Sample Boards and Sample Boxes.**



Short of having the actual tiles in hand, there is no better way to sell ceramic tiles than with "samples" mounted on boards that can be left with a client or in boxes from which the client may choose the appropriate glazes.



Gift of Don West



Gift of Steuart Weller



**Marketing, sales and distribution have served the tile industry since tiles were first produced to sell. *PRODUCT CATALOGS* play an essential role.**

Two late 19th century catalogs, among others.  
Gift of Norman and Shannon Karlson



Roughly 180 historic tile companies are represented in the US Catalog Collection with over 1000 different catalogs. Contact THF for details.

See below for some mid-century catalogs with contemporary appeal.

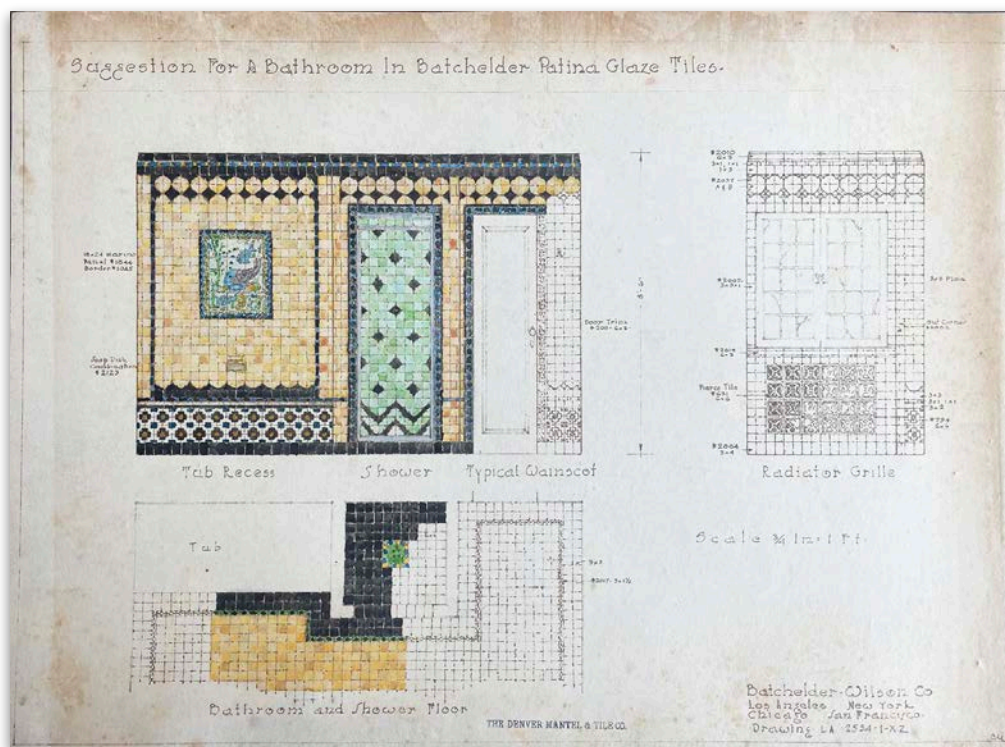


Pre-Depression 20th century catalogs continue to provide design inspiration.

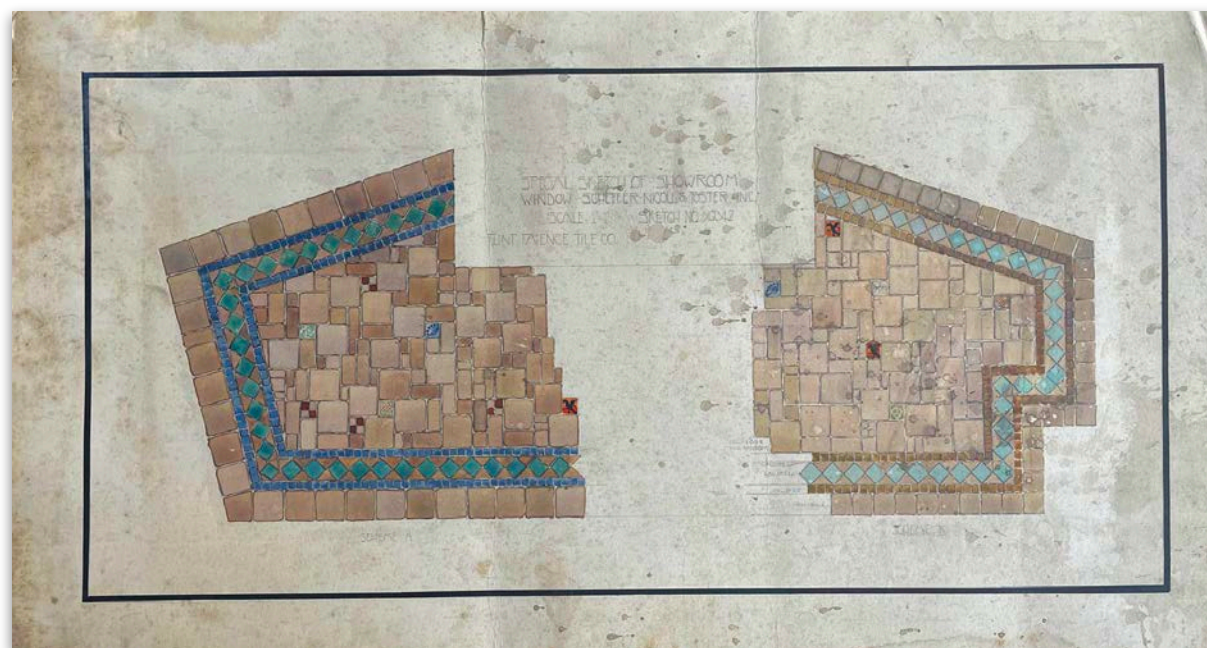


A selection of historic catalog reproductions are available for sale.

***The Archives contain a plethora of vintage architectural renderings for the inclusion of tiles - many still in dire need of conservation.***



Gifts of James Lee and Rick and Richard Baratta







***The THF Library contains many valuable vintage books - many restored but still some in need of conservation, which requires funding.***

*Geschichte der Europäischen Fliesen-Keramik* (History of European Ceramic Tiles from the Middle Ages to 1900) by Robert Forrer (1901) with illustrations of early tiles and tile designs from all western European countries. The book has now been professionally conserved. Note its original condition up top; the conserved book below.

*The Ceramic Gallery* by William Chaffers (2nd Edition 1907), now fully conserved, offers hundreds of illustrations of rare, curious and choice examples of pottery and porcelain pre-19th century.

*Composition* by Arthur Wesley Dow, professor of Fine Arts at Columbia University (9th Edition 1919), has also been recently conserved. A series of exercises in art sculpture for the use of students and teachers alike.



These books gifted by Kirby Brown

## Additional rare and valuable books in the THF Library.

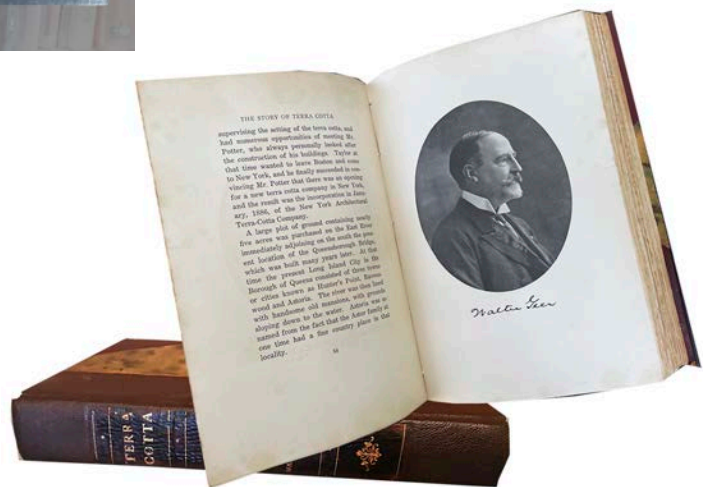


Above, *Leadless Decorative Tiles, Faience and Mosaic* by William J. Furnival, provides us with a 892-page tome. Published in 1904, the book covers history, materials, manufacture and use. Heinrich Ries and Henry Leighton offer *History of the Clay-Working Industry in the United States*, a state by state chronology, in this First Edition from 1909. In *Polychromy: Architectural and Structural Theory and Practice* Leon V. Solon examines historic sources to develop his perspective on the use of color in design.

The THF Library holds roughly 1120 books that present tiles in twenty different countries including the United States. When the foundation got underway in 1987, there were almost no tile-related books in the card catalog in the San Francisco public libraries; the UC Berkeley libraries, only a few more. Today Tile Heritage shelves over 1100 titles, over 160 of these relate to tiles in the US. Other countries include England (73), Portugal (60), Italy (54) and Islamic countries (43).

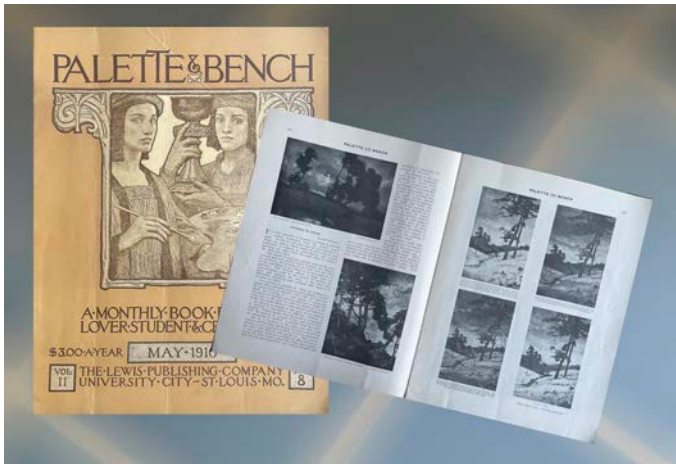
There are 160 books on architects and architecture; 70 publications related to mosaic art; 64 to ceramics in general and 73 to art pottery; 44 to bricks and architectural terra cotta; 40 to Arts & Crafts; 30 to installation, the earliest of which is a two-volume set of Frank Graham's *Audels Masons and Builders Guide* #1 and #2, first editions, 1924. These were gifted by Steven Kinney, a tile contractor from San Ysidro, California.

The book pictured below, *The Story of Terra Cotta* by Walter Geer, was chosen to be conserved. It's one of only 100 printed copies, published in 1920. Geer was president of the New York Architectural Terra-Cotta Company. Gift of Kirby Brown





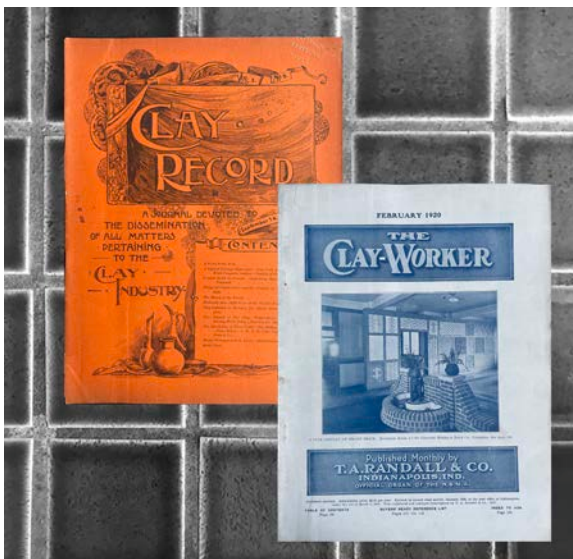
**Periodicals hold the stories of the industry and provide visual stimulus to enhance tile design and promotion, then and now.**



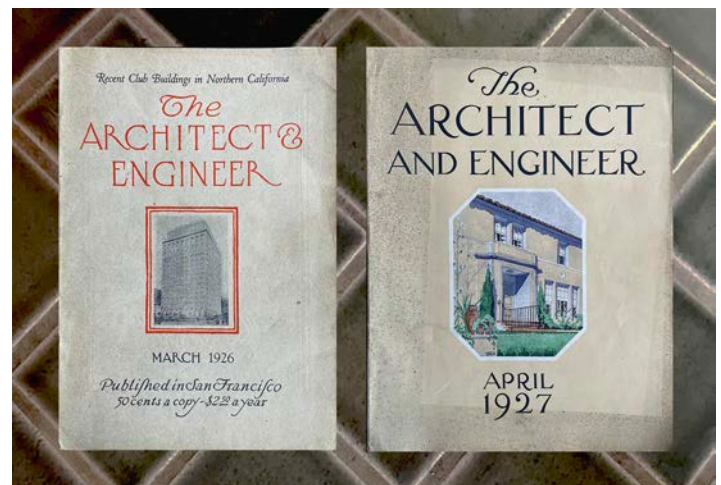
Two issues of *Palette & Bench* from 1910 offer photographic imagery to period tile designers.



Ten issues of *Keramic Studio*, 1903-1924. Monthly Magazine for the Potter and Decorator. Editor: Adelaide Robineau-Alsop



*Clay Record* (34 issues 1892-1899), a late 19th century journal devoted to the dissemination of all matters pertaining to clay. *The Clay Worker* (107 issues 1904-1922), a late 19th and early 20th century publication focusing on all aspects of the clay industries. Gift of Mike Duff



An early 20th century publication with selected architectural features and advertising of numerous products for both residential housing and commercial buildings. Gift of Ruth Walker

**Additional examples of 20th century  
and 21st century periodicals.**



American Ceramic Society,  
mid-1930s.



Gladding,  
McBean & Co.,  
1925 to 1937.



Complete set of issues, 1931.  
Associated Tile Manufacturers



Complete set of issues, 1968 to 2003.



Complete set of issues, 1964 to 2021.



## ***The THF Periodicals Collections list 134 titles, including some rare ones!***



*Tile Industry News*, 1965, '68 and '71. (108 issues 1965 to '98)  
Ceramic Tile Institute  
Gift of Betty Knesel



*Tiles and Tile Work* (22 issues 1929 to 1931).  
Rossman Corporation  
Gift of Deborah Miller



*Tile Talk*, (11 issues 1926 to 1929).  
Devoted to Sanitary, Decorative and  
Lasting Building Construction.  
Empire Floor & Wall Tile Co.  
Gift of Michael Sims

# Tile Heritage Foundation Publications 1988-2022



Since 1994 the foundation has published 21 issues of *Tile Heritage: A Review of American Tile History* offering articles by today's tile historians as well as by family members or friends of those individuals and companies that have influenced what we recognize as the tile industry today. "Flash Point" was discontinued in 1993 after 41 issues had been published. Along with scholarly articles, there was news of what was happening at Tile Heritage at that time. Back issues of both publications are available. Member discounts apply.





**Perceiving and embracing the diversity of the  
Tile Heritage Foundation Archives and Collections  
is enlightening and energizing!**

**A broad funding base is essential for the long-term sustainability of  
Tile Heritage. Sponsorship and Membership have always provided  
the core of the Foundation's stability.**

**TEAM UP WITH TILE HERITAGE TODAY!!**



Arto Brick  
Gardena, California  
www.artobrick.com



CTDA  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois  
www.ctdahome.org



Coverings '22  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
www.coverings.com



Crossville, Inc.  
Crossville, Tennessee  
www.crossvilleinc.com



Curious Clay.  
San Francisco, CA  
www.curiousclay.com



Fireclay Tile, Inc.  
San Francisco, CA  
www.fireclaytile.com



Hovey Tile Art  
Mentone, California  
subwayceramics.com



Mendo Stonezone  
Anchor Bay, CA  
gardenconservancy.org



Merola Sales Co., Inc.  
Manalapan, NJ  
www.merolatile.com



Metropolitan Ceramics  
Canton, Ohio  
metroceramics.com



NS Ceramic  
Santa Barbara, CA  
www.nsceramic.com



NTCA  
Jackson, Mississippi  
www.tile-assn.com



Pratt + Larson  
Portland, Oregon  
www.prattandlarson.com



Rookwood Pottery  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
www.rookwood.com



Sonoma Tilemakers, Inc.  
Windsor, California  
sonomatilemakers.com



TCNA, Inc.  
Anderson, SC  
www.tileusa.com



Tileshop  
Berkeley, California  
www.tile-shop.com



Wizard Enterprise  
Hawthorne, CA  
wizardenterprise.com



WhyTile.com  
Everywhere, USA  
www.whytile.com



Total Solutions Plus  
Everywhere, USA  
www.ctdahome.org