



TYJESKI TILE CO. MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

NEWSLETTER, APRIL - JUNE 2024



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Wednesday, April 24, 6:00pm

FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL
Art Tiles in MPS Schools Lecture & Tour

Come to the free event to learn about art tiles in Milwaukee schools and see the historic murals by Tula Erskine!

The Continental book will be for sale. Cash, checks, cards accepted.

Saturday, April 27, 10-3pm

EPHEMERAL TILE SALE

60 plus tiles will be for sale!! Prices will be between \$16 to \$50 each tile. Designs include shooting stars, trilliums, bloodroots, and more!

Cash, checks, cards accepted.

Sale located my studio at
1334 N 58th St.



NEW BOOK!



FAIENCE TILES AT
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
IN MILWAUKEE

BEN TYJESKI

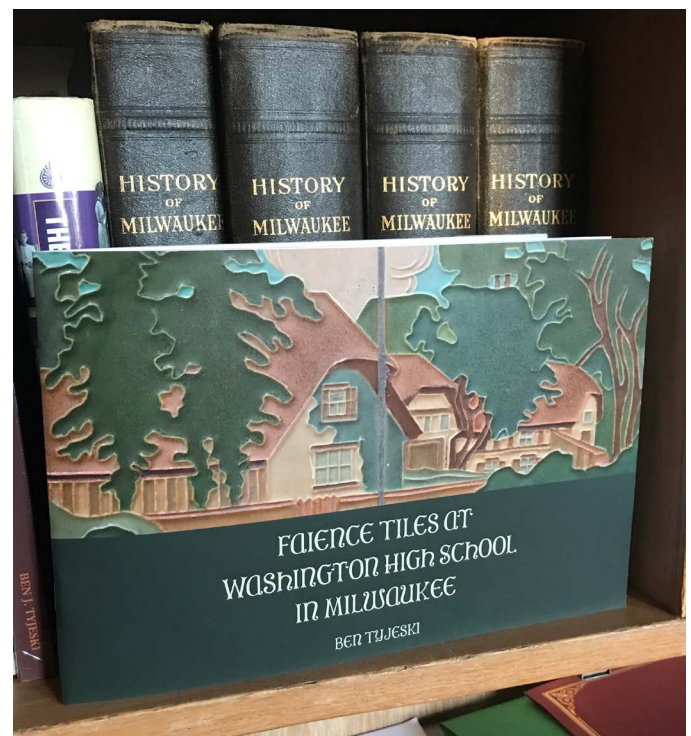
PRE-ORDER NOW!

A new book presenting the historic, faience art tiles installed at Washington High in Milwaukee is now available. Inside its 44 pages tells the story of the first tiled drinking fountains in the Milwaukee area and more!!

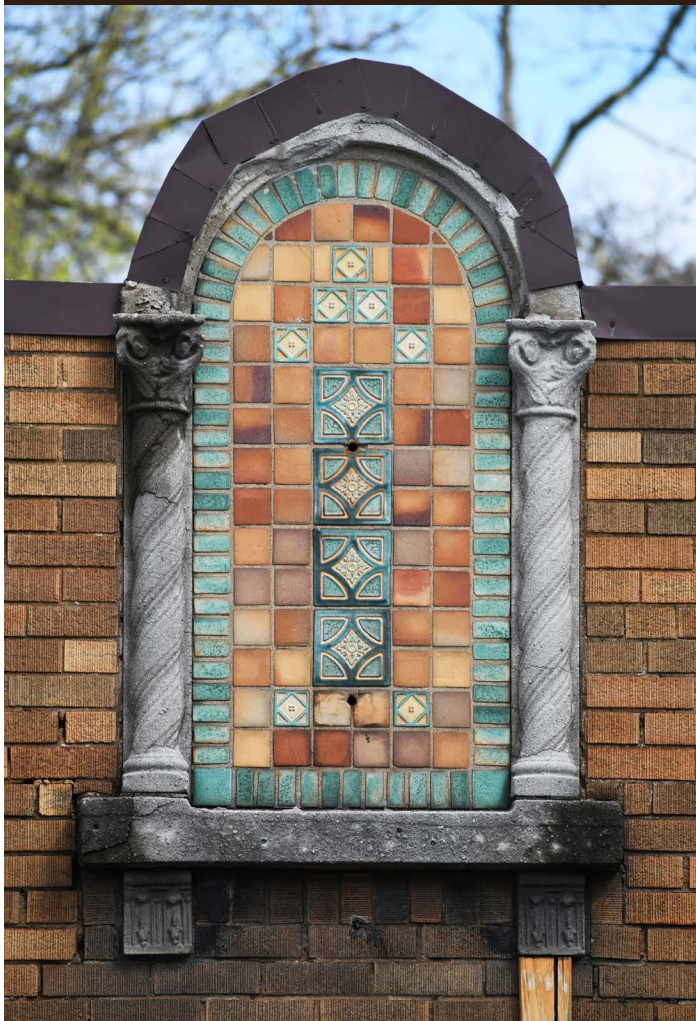
Details are at www.tyjeskitile.com/washingtonhigh.

Book will be available at French Immersion School presentation on April 24.

You can order copies now!



TILE TOWN FEATURE



SOUTHSIDE BUSINESS WITH HISTORIC CONTINENTAL TILES

The owner of Alamo Embroidery on 26th & Greenfield also owns this historic store building where Shalom Appliances is housed. The fascinating history about this South Side retail building and its fabulous tiles made in South Milwaukee are on Urban Milwaukee's Tile Town - click on photograph to read article.

URBAN MILWAUKEE TILE TOWN

CARL BERGMANS AND THE CONTINENTAL FAIENCE & TILE CO.



BEN TYJESKI KELLY DUDLEY KATHY ROBERTS

South Milwaukee Tile Book!

Go to www.continentalfaience.com for details and to purchase your own copy of the book!

ALSO AVAILABLE AT



235 E Michigan St
Milwaukee, WI
10-3pm Tu-Su



755 N Milwaukee St
Milwaukee, WI
10-6pm M-F
10-4pm S-S



720 E Locust St
Milwaukee, WI
12-7pm Tu-Su



1919 12th Ave
South Milwaukee, WI
2nd floor
10am-3pm Tu, Th, & Sa



TILE & TERRA COTTA NEWS: NEMADJI TILE IN SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO

Located in the Beverly Hills neighborhood of Chicago is a handsome Tudor revival residence from 1928 designed by architect Murray Hetherington. Inside are many rooms dazzling with tile. Glazed faience is in all the bathrooms, as well as Valencia mosaic from the Continental Faience & Tile Company of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the foyer. Of particular interest is the solarium. Its cozy, warm earth tones of unglazed, fire-flashed pavers are charmed with decorative inserts of plants and animals. Who made these fabulous tiles? Well, as the research shows, they are attributed to Nemadji Tile & Pottery Company of Moose Lake, Minnesota.

According to Joseph Taylor of the Tile Heritage Foundation, there are only two other known sites with these decorative tiles. One is an installation from 1929 at the entrance to Tower Hall at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. The other is also from 1928 inside the lobby of an apartment building known as Hampton Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (identified by Michael Padwee).

According to Michelle Lee, author of *The Myth and Magic of Nemadji “Indian” Pottery* (Left Hand Publishing Co., 2004), she is confident that these inserts were made by the Minnesota manufacturer. Her evidence is that they were featured in installations with Nemadji field tile and that several of the small tiles were excavated at the site of the original tile plant.

The six-inch decorative tiles are the real “show stopper” in this installation. They are unglazed like the field tile and were created with buff and red clays. There are a total of twenty-one inserts, including 3 griffins, 5 squirrels, 3 elephants, and 10 owls. More photos are a

But wait, there is more!

Above: The solarium inside a Tudor Revival home in the South side of Chicago.

Right: Six-inch decorative inserts sprinkled across the floor in the solarium. More photos of individual tiles are at the end of the document.



In another residence built concurrently in the same neighborhood and the same architect was another Nemadji tile installation. This one is in the vestibule. Even though there is less tile, the designs are equally entertaining. Several four-inch designs were used, including a portrait with its tongue sticking out, two animals with their heads nestled together, and a portrait of a person with their hair braided and tied in a bun. As far as it is known, these tiles have yet to be identified in other installations.

Because of generous homeowners like these Chicago residents who were willing to share their homes, these beautiful tiles can be shared with the tile community and more can be learned about the Nemadji Tile & Pottery Co. In respect of the homeowners' privacy, their names remain anonymous and addresses are anonymous.

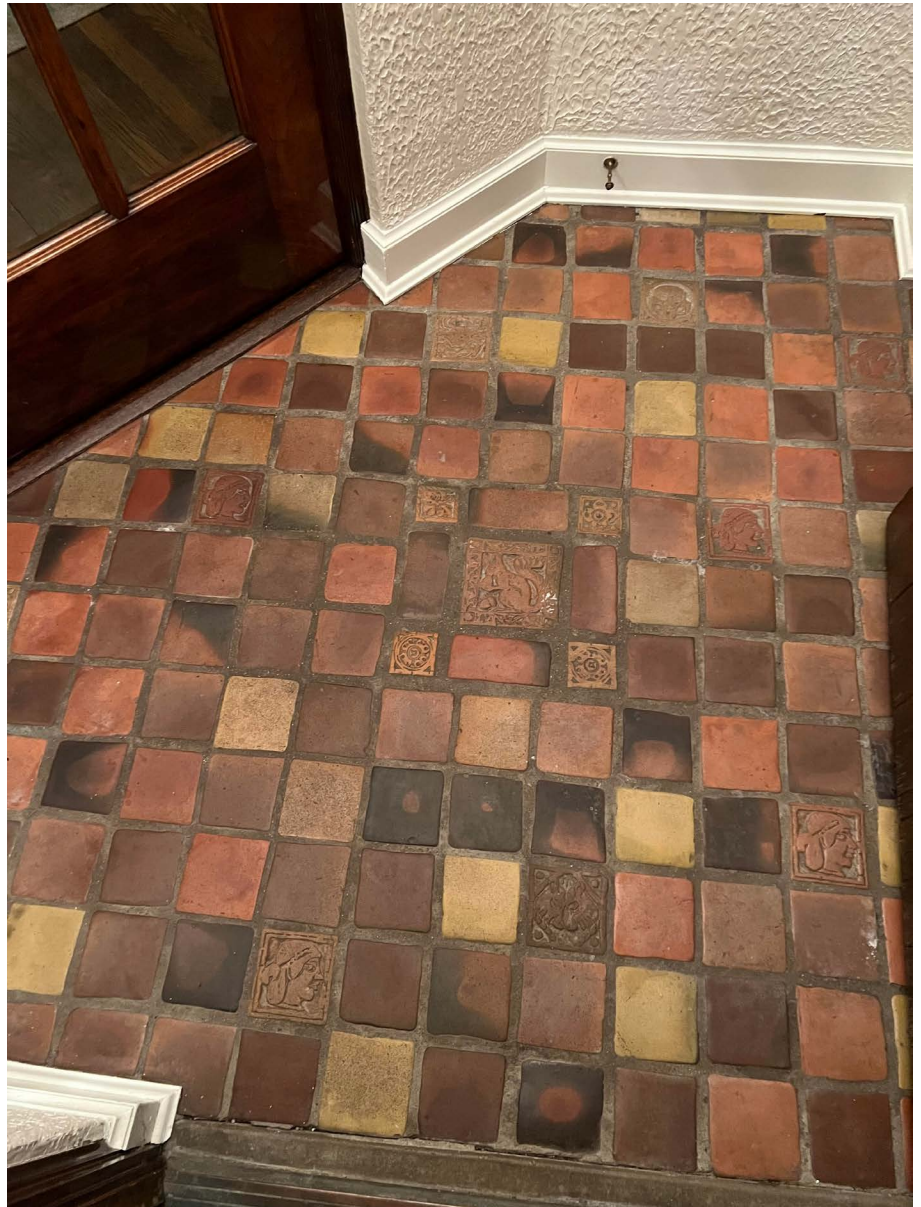


Top right: Three-inch decorative tiles of flora, similar to what Michelle Lee would have excavated at the original Nemadji factory site. In this installation, there are a total of thirty-two inserts this size.

Above: View of the vestibule inside another residence down the street in the Beverly Hills neighborhood.

Opposite page: Details of the flooring in the vestibule of the home pictured on the right.

Following pages: Decorative inserts from the Tudor Revival home with the Nemadji tile solarium.







DECORATIVE INSERTS 6"

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