



TYJESKI TILE CO.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



NEWSLETTER, JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

HANDMADE TILES AND OBJECTS FOR SALE, 4"



Black Bear, \$30



Blue Oak, \$30



Yellow/Black Deer \$25



Goldeneye, \$30



White Trillium, \$30



Green Oak, \$25



Bloodroot, \$25



Iris Tile (3''), Blue, \$28



Prairie Trillium 1, \$30



Prairie Trillium 2, \$30



Iris Tile (3''), Green, \$28

HOW TO PURCHASE

Payment for tiles will be accepted via Square, check, or cash. Please email me at tyjeskib@gmail.com and tell me which tiles you would like by listing the tile name. Prices listed do not include tax and shipping. Tiles can be shipped or picked up at my studio by appointment.

All tiles are approximately 4 inches wide and a half inch thick (unless mentioned otherwise).



Doe, 6" tall, \$115

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTIST

Iris tile
How you make me smile
To many you will be decorative
But to me you are memorative
Your deep carvings and natural shapes
Come from studying your beauty on a great escape
To a fellow who favors subversivity,
They will not understand your grace and honesty



STUDIO? SNAPSHOT



A range of decorative tiles are being developed! In the meantime, work is being made for an alcove in a kitchen. Updates to follow!

INSPIRING QUOTE

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

JOHN MUIR

Quoted at the Sanctuary Woods in Wauwatosa, WI.



TILE & TERRA COTTA NEWS: THE ANIMAL TILES AT EAST HIGH: IN WAUSAU WISCONSIN

NEW BOOK!

The famous “animal tiles” in the historic East High School building in Wausau, Wisconsin are now documented in a new book!

Decorative “brictiles” manufactured by the Stark Brick Co. of East Canton, Ohio were installed inside the school during the 1930s when it was built. Over 500 tiles of bobcats, camels, oak leaves, and more were installed in the hallways and stairwells.

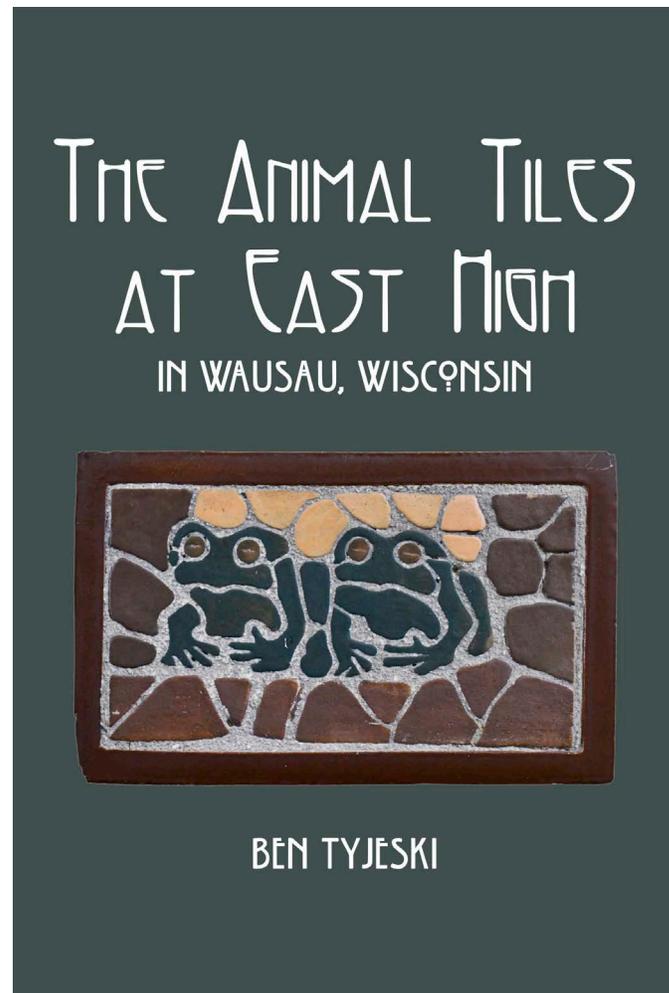
To purchase your own copy, [click here](http://www.tyjeskitile.com/store/p8/easthigh.html) or go to: <http://www.tyjeskitile.com/store/p8/easthigh.html>.

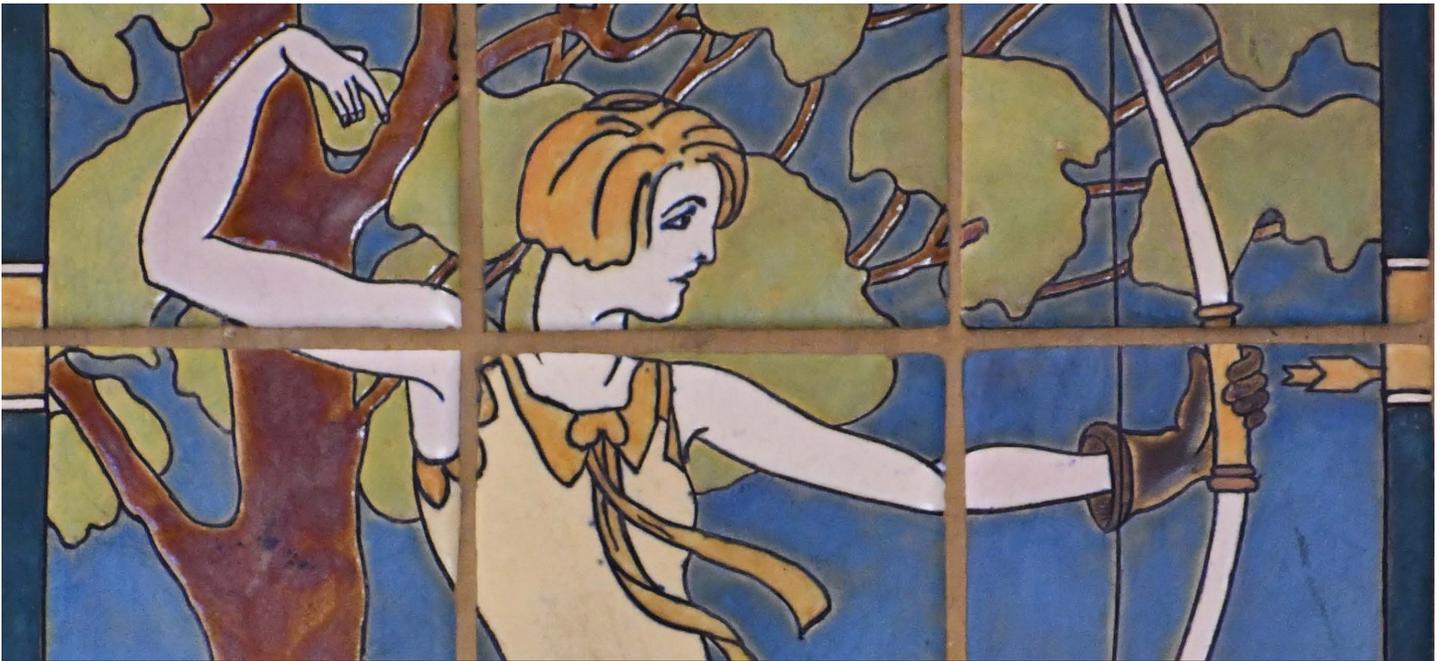
6” x 9”

30 pages, color

Paperback

Cost: \$15





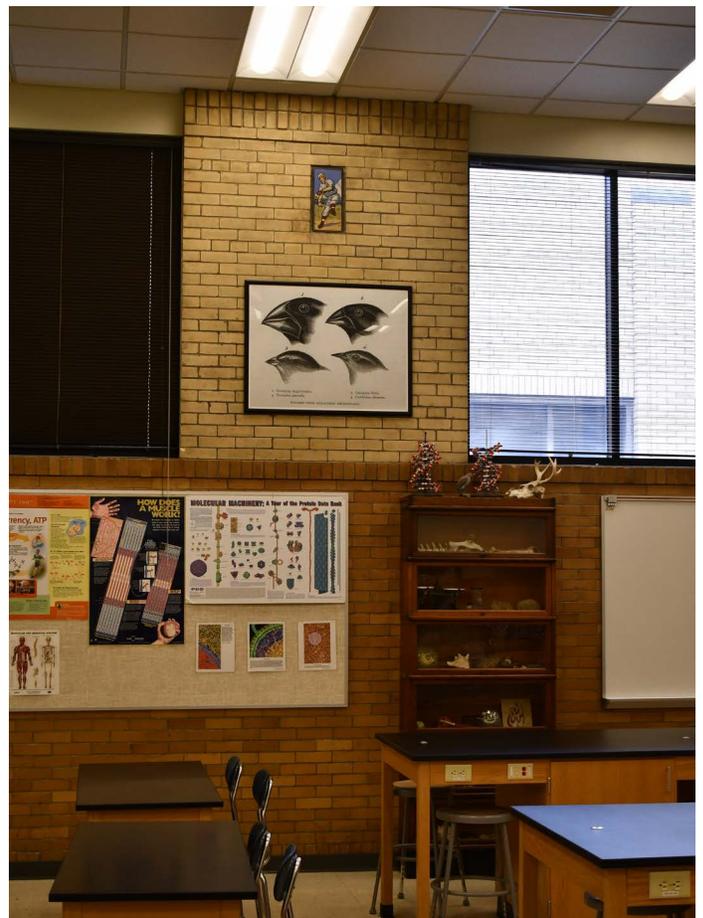
TILE & TERRA COTTA NEWS: ATHLETIC TILES IN WISCONSIN SCHOOLS: PART I

What do the schools of Marquette University High, Messmer High, and Mount Mary University all have in common? In each school there are installations of art tiles showcasing athletes. The range of sports represented is quite diverse, from tennis, golf, track & field, swimming, football, baseball, lawn bowling, and more. How did this come to be? Milwaukee can thank local architects Herbst & Kuenzli.

In the early 1920s, the architects William G. Herbst and Edwin O. Kuenzli worked in their offices in rooms 721 and 722 of the Caswell Block (on the corner of streets now called Plankinton and Wisconsin Avenues). During this time they drafted designs for the Marquette University High School. Their design for the school building placed the gymnasium on the third floor and featured tiles of athletes interspersed along the top of the walls.

Today the gymnasium no longer exists on the third floor, however, the art tiles remain like a portal into the past, even after its conversion into classrooms. A total of twelve tile designs show young boys playing various sports: basketball, baseball, football, swimming, and four track & field events including shot put, hammer throwing, relay racing, discus throwing, and hurdles.

The manufacturer of these amazing tiles was the Flint Faience Tile Company of Flint, Michigan.



Within a Science classroom tiles of athletes continue to decorate a space that was once a gymnasium at Marquette University High.





The designs were made up of two 8" x 8" tiles. Each composition showcases an athlete in an active pose. Careful attention was made to the detail of the athletes' postures. The football player is captured at the moment immediately after kicking a field goal with his kicking leg in the air. The twisting of the hammer thrower's body is evident from the bending of his joints and the ripples of his uniform. A pitcher is captured in the moment where he pivots on one foot and his tight grip on the ball is about to be released. The athletes' movement represented in these tiles could not be captured better in photography.

The tile maker's attention to detail was also shown in their representation of light and shadow. The athletes' uniforms and bodies are rendered with glazes that have bold colors and various shades. Dark lines on the fabric and their muscles also outline their figures. Furthermore, almost every tile shows the athletes' shadows cast from the sun.

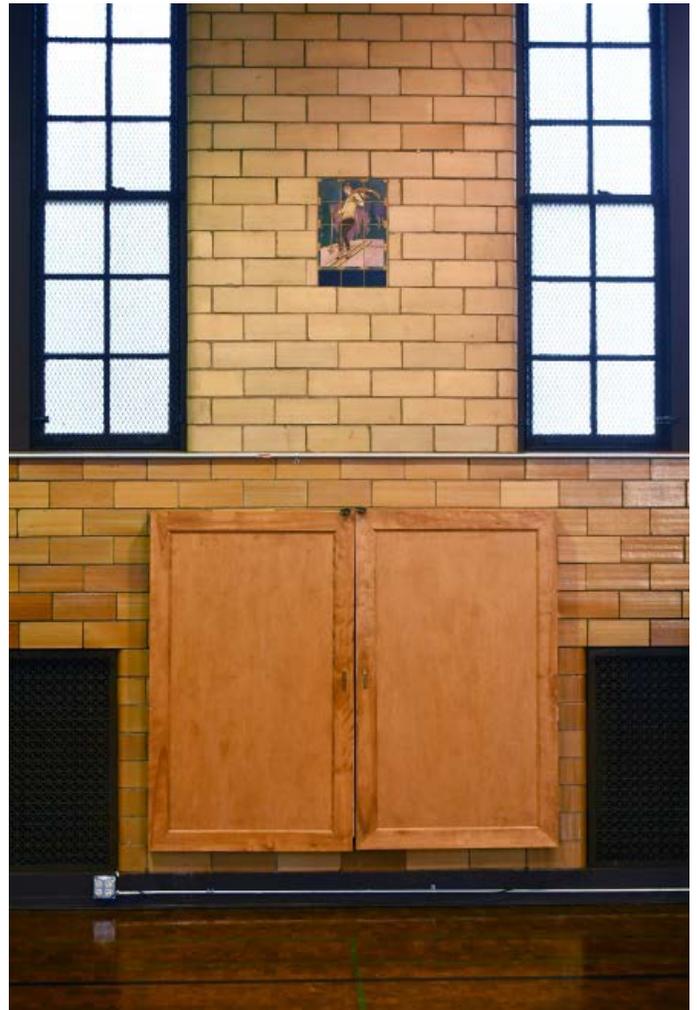
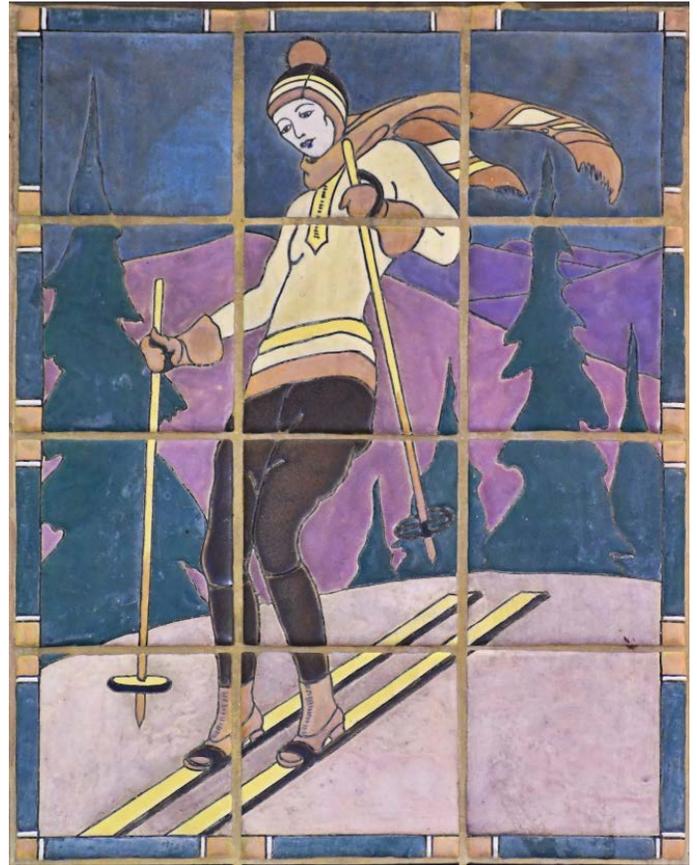
The twelve tiles at the Marquette University High, manufactured by the Flint Faience Tile Company, are truly remarkable because of their beautiful compositions and superior detail in glazed ceramic. However, the story continues.

A few years after the construction of Marquette University High, the architects designed another gymnasium with a similar theme. In their offices at the top of the Bartlett Building (next door to where they were before), Herbst & Kuenzli designed the gymnasium for Mount Mary University with ten tiles of young girls playing various sports. Like before, there is a diverse range of sports represented including skiing, golf, tennis,



Above: The discus thrower tiles inside a classroom that was originally the third-floor gymnasium at Marquette University High.

Opposite: Tiles of athletes inside the gymnasium in Caroline Hall at Mount Mary University.



ice-skating, archery, lawn bowling, horse-riding, and mountain climbing. In each tile panel, the athletes are captured in active poses. The tennis player has her eyes fixed on the ball as she positions her racket to strike it. The skier leans back as she descends a snowy slope. A bowler leans forward and balances her weight on her front foot so she can toss the ball.

The tile makers gave careful attention to the placement of the athlete's feet and the positioning of their limbs, but did not use as much effort in the glazing and use of light and shadow. However, what else becomes striking about these tile designs is the attention to fashion. The archer wears a brown glove to hold the bow. The skier



Decorative panels of girls inside the historic gymnasium in Caroline Hall at the Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

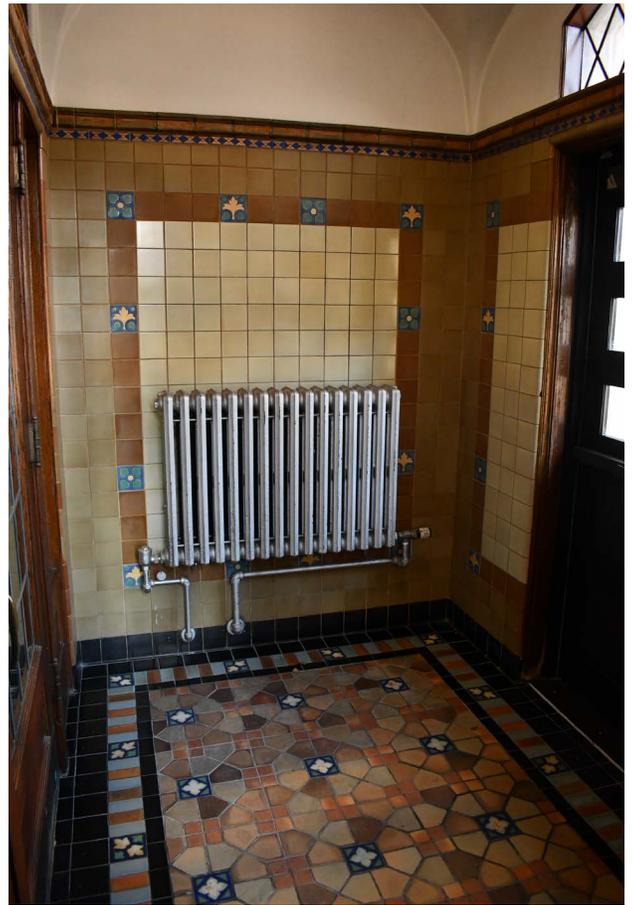
wears a pom pom beanie cap, the golfer a cloche or similar type of vintage cap, and the ice skater a stocking cap. The ice skater also wears a chevron-striped sweater with a distinctive, puffy collar. The horse rider wears equestrian breeches and an elegant jacket with a black lapel. The bowler's skirt is quite fascinating with the multicolored scalloped pattern. The numerous details in the fashion shows that the athletes can have both grit and grace. Furthermore, for an institution that became the first four-year Fashion program in the nation and preserves a generous archive of historic fashion pieces, it is fitting that Mount Mary's tiled decorations also celebrate fashion.

The manufacturer of these splendid tiled panels at Mount Mary are attributed to the American Encaustic Tile Company (AETCO) of Zanesville, Ohio. There is no hard evidence for this attribution, but it has been agreed among other tile historians that the manufacturer was most likely AETCO. This is due to the fact that other tile installations at Mount Mary University feature decorative tiles from AETCO, such as the vestibules to the Notre Dame Hall and Caroline Hall.

Furthermore, another Milwaukee school designed by Herbst & Kuenzli and built concurrently with Mount Mary around 1929 also featured similar tile installations from AETCO: Messmer High. In fact, some of the tiled panels feature identical athletes!

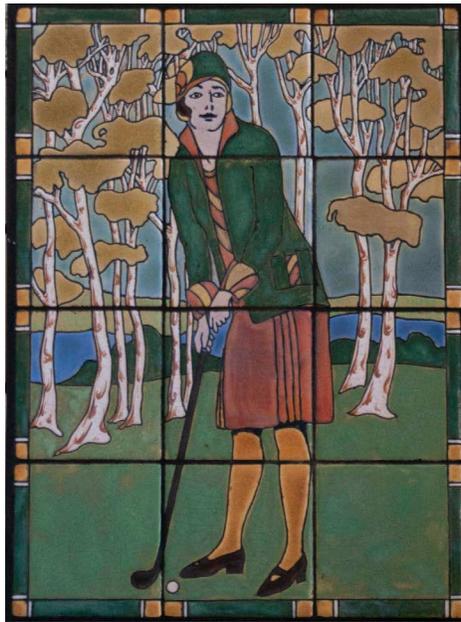
Unlike Marquette University High and Mouth Mary, the faience tiles at Messmer High are found strictly within the vestibules of the school. There are a total of five athletes there: a basketball player, a golfer, a tennis player, a track racer, and a football player. The designs of the golfer and the tennis player are the same panels found at Mount Mary University. However, at Messmer the color scheme of the glazes are more earthy and natural while at Mount Mary the color scheme is bluer. At Messmer the tennis player wears a purple-themed outfit and the golfer wears a green-colored coat, a rosy dress and orangish tights. Meanwhile, attention to detail with the tiles of boy athletes continues. The basketball player wears a blue tank top, shorts and socks while the racer wears a maroon and pink uniform. The football player's uniform shows a neat design with purple and ivory stripes and a leather helmet. All these tiles are a window into past fashion trends and styles and adds to their cultural importance.

Again, like Mount Mary, these tiles of athletes are attributed to AETCO because all the surrounding tiles are made by AETCO. Furthermore, when I visited the school several years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting the grounds supervisor, as well as his boss who worked there for decades before him. For what it's worth, he recalled the AETCO tile company name when I asked him about the manufacturer. Again, without any definite proof, this is as far as I have been able to get with the identification of the manufacturer. The



Top: Vestibule with AETCO tiles inside Caroline Hall at Mount Mary University.

Above: Vestibule inside the Messmer High also with AETCO tiles.



Tiles of athletes found within three unique vestibules at Messmer High in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attributed to AETCO.

dry-line technique and glazes appeared consistent to other decorative tiles in those AETCO installations as well.

These tiles of athletes at Marquette University High, Mount Mary, and Messmer are special in that

they were all in parochial buildings designed by Herbst & Kuenzli and installed in similar ways. Fortunately, there are more schools in Milwaukee and Wisconsin that show athletic figures; more to come in part two.