

## American Art Tile 1876-1941

*Norman Karlson*

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**Norman Karlson : American Art Tile 1876-1941** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Art Tile 1876-1941:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recognized as the Authoritative Work By Charlie Creath The price was exceptional for this excellent work by one of the great collectors and authorities on American Tiles. The shipping was remarkably fast. I believe it arrived the day after it was ordered or the following day. Condition was precisely as described: It appeared to be a new volume, though it is a hardback published fifteen years ago. The work is organized according to Geographical Areas of the country, then the names of the companies, Alphabetically. I am enjoying this work after first searching out articles about companies I already knew. I highly recommend this seller. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and Beautiful By Jody Palm This is a must for anyone interested in the

history of tiles and tile makers. The book gives a history of every tile making outfit in America from 1876-1941, and shows as many color samples of the tiles they produced as the author seems to have gotten his hands on, many from his own collection. It was sobering to notice, when reading about all the tile companies, how many went under during the depression or just afterwards. This country lost a wonderful heritage, as many never came back after the depression lifted. Too bad, really. There are currently some companies making copies or remakes of some designs (what with the renewed interest in all things Arts and Crafts). Maybe this book and the Neo Arts and Crafts movement will spark some new American tile making shops? I hope so. The book is beautifully laid out and would be a nice coffee table addition for those who are not tile collectors, but who just enjoy looking at tiles. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Superb reference By Sean J. Malloy Superb photos and beautifully written and researched text make this a must for any serious collector of American Art Tiles! Karlson pushes the information envelope with regard to many American tile artisans. For example, he includes a photograph of perhaps the only known example of a glazed Matt Morgan art tile. If you are a serious Art Tile collector this book should be in your library!

From the world's foremost collector, here is the new, fully illustrated standard guide to America's first golden age of tile making. American Art Tile presents more than 2,000 tiles, arranged geographically and chronologically, made by more than 100 American potteries and manufacturers from the Civil War to the 1940s. Full-color photographs illustrate these collectible and rare tiles from all regions of the United States, as well as historic landmark tile installations, from the New York subway to Catalina Island. Tile collectors will appreciate the meticulously researched history of each pottery, biographies of tile makers, and rare examples (seldom seen even in museums) from little-known potteries in Norman Karlson's personal collection.

.com For collectors and aficionados of American art tile, this thoroughgoing, historically detailed book of more than 2,000 tiles from 149 potteries, studios, and factories will prove indispensable. And for casual readers who happen on its amazing array of delectable color photographs, it will be a seductive invitation to join the club. Author Norman Karlson was a photographer who shot some hand-painted Florentine tiles for a Ladies' Home Journal article in 1962. After 500 readers asked where to find them, Karlson started a European tile store in the basement of his home, branching into American art tiles in the 1980s. Here he has written brief, fascinating histories of each manufacturer, starting in New England and ending in California, with many down-to-earth details. Discussing Mississippi's Newcomb pottery, at the Southern women's college, Karlson mentions George Ohr, whose turn-of-the-century pots are now highly prized. "It is assumed that Newcomb asked Ohr to leave because his bawdy character was unsuited for the refined young ladies," Karlson notes dryly, next to photos of ceramic brothel tokens with ribald pictograms that Ohr sold as souvenirs at his own studio. Karlson provides pictures of scores of tile-clad surfaces, from cozy Arts and Crafts mantelpieces to the New York subway system. He also includes photos of potteries' identifying marks, biographical sketches of six leaders of the American art-tile movement, a glossary, and a detailed bibliography. --Margaret Moorman From Booklist Who better than a dedicated, devoted collector to document the history of American art tile? In 1962, while in Italy, photographer Karlson picked out some blue-and-white tiles and installed them at home, then photographed them for a magazine assignment. Requests flooded the editors, and Karlson started his collection and a retail shop exclusively for flooring products. Thirty stores later arrives this definitive reference source, arranging factories by state or area and illustrating each with at least a few photographs of actual ceramics output. Each entry includes not only a description of ownership, location, business size, and other corporate data, but also, whenever possible, notes about major installations, techniques, awards, and artisans associated with the pottery. Biographical profiles, a glossary, and selected reading appended. Barbara Jacobs