



Tile

Not on display

Title/Description: Tile

Born: 1905 c.

Object Type: Tile

Materials: Ceramic, Earthenware

Technique: Glazing, Moulding

Measurements: h. 152 x w. 152 x d. 10 mm

Accession Number: 21084B

Production Place: Britain, England

School/Style: Art Nouveau

Credit Line: Donated by Sir Colin and Lady Anderson, 1978

This is one of a pair of identical ceramic tiles acquired by Sir Colin Anderson between 1962 and 1974. Possibly produced by Marsden Tile Company Limited in England around 1905, the tile lacks a mark of manufacture to confirm this attribution. Glazed white, this earthenware tile has been decorated with a dark green transfer-printed design of stylised flowers. Tints of green and claret have been added by hand as onglazes. This type of moulded tile was mass-produced using industrial methods of manufacturing.

The square tile is patterned with a circular wreath motif that is at its fullest in the upper section. Ten tubular purple blooms fan outwards from arcing green stems to form a tear-shaped enclosure. A central post ornamented by a green leafy cluster draws the eye to the design's strong vertical line of symmetry. The pattern's organic curvilinear structure and whiplash stems are characteristic of the nature-inspired Art Nouveau style.

Marsden Tile Company Ltd operated in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent from 1892-1928 and produced a wide range of relief-moulded, tube-lined and transfer printed ceramic tiles in the Art Nouveau style. Marsden manufactured decorative tiles for Wedgwood and Doulton.

Vanessa Tothill, March 2021

Further Reading

Amaya, Mario, *Art Nouveau* (London: Dutton Vista, 1966)

Geitner, Amanda and Emma Hazell, ed., *The Anderson Collection of Art Nouveau* (Norwich: Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, 2003)

Greenhalgh, Paul, ed., *Art Nouveau, 1890-1914* (London: V&A Publications, 2000)

Greenhalgh, Paul, ed., *The Nature of Dreams: England and the Formation of Art Nouveau* (Norwich: Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, 2020)
