

John C. Austin Meredith Chilton Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen Pat Halfpenny

HONORARY MEMBERS

• Connecticut Ceramics Study Circle •

Volume XXV

Number 2

January/February/March 2015

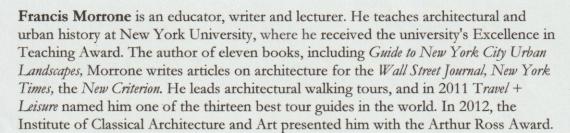
Terracotta Art: Ornamental Terracotta on Iconic New York Buildings, 1870-1940

Speaker: Francis Morrone, Architectural Historian, Lecturer, Assistant Professor, New School, New York, NY

Monday, January 12, 2015, 1:15 pm Lecture and Tea

The Bruce Museum
One Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut

n Monday, January 12, 2015, Francis Morrone will take us on an armchair tour of "Ornamental Terracotta on Iconic New York Buildings." Long before Manhattan became the repository for Modernist steel-and-glass skyscrapers, New York's cutting-edge buildings were ornamented and clad with terracotta tiles and sculptural decorations. Exuding colorful warmth, the early office buildings were a synthesis of beauty, engineering, and skilled labor. The illustrated lecture will highlight some of these architectural treasures including the four-story Brooklyn Historical Society (1881), designed by George B. Post who used unglazed terracotta as exterior cladding from the nearby Perth Amboy Terracotta Company. Engineered to withstand New York's climate, terracotta held up well and lent itself to this exuberant style. By the late 1890's, terracotta producers offered polychrome and white to dazzling effect. The architect Cass Gilbert used large-scale polychrome terracotta ornament on his New York buildings, like the Woolworth Building. Gilbert clad this 60-story office building in glazed light cream terracotta, accented by polychrome neo-Gothic ornament from the Queens-based Atlantic Terracotta Company. The lecture continues with the vogue for incorporating art tiles into building facades of 1910-1920s.



The lecture at the Bruce Museum will begin at 1:15 pm with tea to follow. Admission for non-CCSC members is \$25. For reservations and information visit: www.ctceramicscircle.org or call (203) 531-6831.

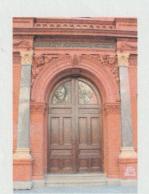


Photo by **The Squirrels** as part of the Commons: Wikis Take Manhattan project on October 4, 2008.



Woolworth Building completed 1913, 233 Broadway New York, New York