



HAMMERSMITH STUDIOS

ARTMETAL CRAFTSMEN

OCTOBER 14, 2009

SALVATORE DEFazio III
P.O. Box 81245
WELLESLEY, MA. 02481

BELVEDERE ABBOTT ROAD SIGN BRACKET & SIGN POST WELLESLEY HILLS, MA,

THE BELVEDERE ABBOTT ROAD WROUGHT IRON SIGN BRACKET WAS FORGED IN THE STUDIO OF FREDRICK KRASSER CO. LOCATED ON GEORGE STREET IN ROXBURY, MA. HIS STUDIO WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS IN BOSTON AND WAS INFLUENTIAL IN THE REVIVAL OF THE BLACKSMITH'S ART DURING THE TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY. FREDRICK KRASSER DIED IN 1913 BUT THE MEN OF HIS SHOP KEPT THE FIRES GOING UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF FREDRICK'S CLOSE FRIEND, FRANK KORALEWSKY. KORALEWSKY SOON BECAME THE MOST RESPECTED IRONWORKER IN BOSTON AND HIS REPUTATION SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD.

BECAUSE OF KORALEWSKY'S EFFORTS AND SUPREME SKILLS AS AN IRON CARVER, THE KRASSER COMPANY EARNED A GOLD MEDAL AT THE 1915 WORLD'S FAIR FOR ITS ENTRY OF A WROUGHT IRON LOCK NAMED "SNOW WHITE LOCK." THE LOCK TOOK 7 YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT IS AN ARTS & CRAFTS TREASURE THAT RIVALS ANY LOCK CREATED IN THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD AND DEMONSTRATES THE SMITH'S MASTERY OF EVERY FACET OF METAL WORKING TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS. TODAY THE LOCK CAN BE SEEN AT CHICAGO'S MUSEUM OF ART.

HIS LARGE WROUGHT IRON CARVING TITLED "THE FOREST SMITHY" WHICH DEPICTS A BLACKSMITH SCENE IN MEDIEVAL GERMANY WITH A KNIGHT PATRONIZING A BLACKSMITH SHOP IS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

KORALEWSKY'S WORK WAS COLLECTED BY MANY OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY'S MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE INCLUDING J.P. MORGAN AND ANDREW CARNEIGIE.

KORALEWSKY'S WORK CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT HARVARD, YALE, BOSTON COLLEGE, THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE IN NEW YORK CITY AS WELL AS TOWER COURT AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE. ALSO IN WELLESLEY HIS LANTERN HANGS IN THE ENTRANCE OF THE OLD SPRAGUE SCHOOL ON OAK STREET. HIS WORK IS EXTREMELY SOUGHT AFTER BY ARTS & CRAFTS COLLECTORS BECAUSE OF ITS QUALITY AND RARITY. SOME PIECES COMMAND PRICES IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND HIGHER. AFTER FRANK KORALEWSKY, VERY FEW AMERICAN BLACKSMITHS GAINED NOTORIETY. HIS WORK IS PART OF OUR NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE.

REGARDS,

CARL CLOSE JR.
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P.S. IF WE CAN BE OF ANY SERVICE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KORALEWSKY'S WORK PLEASE LET US KNOW. WE ALSO HAVE A FEW IMPORTANT PIECES OF HIS WE CAN SHOW THE PUBLIC TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING AND RESTORING THE BELVEDERE ABBOTT ROAD SIGN.

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