

Theme 2

Architectural Ceramics

MARSEILLE ROOF TILES: IMPORT TO PALESTINE/ISRAEL AND THEIR LOCAL COUNTERPART IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

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In 1841, the Gilardoni brothers, Joseph and Xaver from Altkirch in Alsace patented what would become the most popular roof tile produced ever, the “heart tile”.

Only few years later several manufacturers in and around Marseille started to mass-produce and export these tiles. They were exported all over the world and arrived also in then-Palestine and were used abundantly as can be seen by findings on archaeological excavations.

This paper looks at the import of such tiles and the development of the local production in light of the growing demand of tiles in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth century.