

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following material was removed from the final version of the textbook **Makers: A History of American Studio Craft** and is provided on the textbook Web site for reference purposes. Copyright © The Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

---

### **Sidebar: Albert King**

Albert Henry King (1900-?) was born in England and came to the U.S. at the age of 10. He was educated in Los Angeles, including study at that city's Art Students League. His first solo show was at the Zeitlain Gallery in Los Angeles about 1923. Around 1930, with Harold Spence, a student at UCLA by day and by night a kiln fireman for the American Encaustic tile manufacturers, King decided to build a kiln. "We had heard stories of various kilns up and down the Pacific Coast. Any that seemed to interest us we went to visit and, if possible, stayed through firings. We took our time and ended up designing our own kiln using features that we thought desirable." They wanted high temperatures, although low-fire earthenware was the norm then. A fire in 1936 destroyed the kiln and ended the partnership.

During the Depression, King was involved with the Public Works of Art Project and was a supervisor of ceramics for the Federal Art Project from 1936 to 1939. His major work was the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium ceramic mosaic mural, which he executed—after a preliminary design by Stanton Macdonald-Wright—with the assistance of about 50 craftsmen. Beginning in the early '40s he was a regular visiting teacher at Los Angeles art schools. With his wife, Louisa, he established the Lotus and Acanthus Studios to make molded porcelain vessels.