

# Iron Illustrated

Herndon & Merry, Inc.

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Garden Park Antiques

## This House Was Designed to Say 'Welcome'

A visitor to Shirley Scott's new home in Bowling Green, Ky., immediately feels comfortable and glad to be there. The gracious manner of the owner is largely responsible for that, but the house itself is welcoming, too.

"I chose earth-tone colors for the interior, because I wanted the house to be warm and friendly, not cold and sterile," says Scott. "I want people to feel welcome here."

In developing the interior design for the traditional home, Scott called on Herndon & Merry to design and produce a stairway railing for the foyer. Featuring special finishes created by H&M to complement the warm palette of the walls and furnishings, it can be seen immediately upon entering and is definitely a focal point. Continuing the earth-tone concept, the railing also features hand-crafted scrollwork, brass leaves and rosettes.

Scott, who was referred to Herndon & Merry by designer Elizabeth Potts, looked at photos of similar H&M work before deciding on the basic railing style and finishes she wanted, then had input into the design process as her one-of-a-kind railing was created.

Herndon & Merry also designed and crafted a small powder room table for the home.

"It was a great pleasure working with Shirley Scott on this project," says Herndon &

Merry President Bill Merry, Jr. "We're especially proud of the fact that she chose to make the railing such a big part of the first impression one gets when entering the home. It's most gratifying for all involved."



*This stairway railing features special finishes created by Herndon & Merry to complement the earth tones in the Bowling Green, Ky., home of Shirley Scott. The inset shows some of the detail.*

**Herndon & Merry, Inc.**, founded in 1959, is a designer of residential entrances and a designer and fabricator of custom architectural metalwork, including entrance gates, garden gates, stairways and railings. The company, winner of 34 national design awards, serves both residential and commercial customers, and is located at 7121 Cockrill Bend Blvd. in Nashville. **Garden Park Antiques**, a separate division at the same address, deals in decorative antique architectural elements, antique iron garden ornamentation, and original-design furniture crafted from salvaged ornamental ironwork and other architectural elements. It was established in 1987 by Keith Merry, son of Herndon & Merry co-founder Bill Merry, Sr.



Bill Merry, Sr.

## When to Call in a Specialist

by Bill Merry, Sr.

If you're building a home that will have an interior stairway, you need to realize that you have options when it comes to the all-important stairway railing.

Numerous craftsmen can install a standard iron railing using standard pickets and other standard materials available in catalogs. This is what you find in many homes today. However, if you want something more than "standard," if you want the railing to truly reflect your personal tastes and style, you'll want to call in a specialist in ironwork design who can help you create a custom railing that is yours and yours alone.

One very important aspect of any railing is the finish, which should complement the design of the stairway, the room and the overall style of the home. If you decide to choose a custom railing, you're not limited to a few standard finishes. Here at Herndon & Merry, for example, we've developed dozens of finishes during our 44 years in business, and we customize those finishes even further with infinite variations on the basic themes.

Don't ignore this important component of interior design. In some cases it may be cheaper to let the carpenter who built your wooden stairs build your iron railing, but remember, you're going to be looking at it every day. Shouldn't it be what you really want? You'll be better served by dealing with the specialist in each type of work.

# Maxwell's 'Art' Displayed at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts

Visitors to Nashville's Frist Center for the Visual Arts see more than just famous paintings and artifacts; they also see metalwork creations by Herndon & Merry's P. J. Maxwell, who was recently

as wall-mounted mailboxes when the building that now houses the Frist was a U. S. Post Office. Maxwell cut an opening in the face of the antique boxes and inserted a glass panel on which the Frist logo was inscribed by sand-blasting. Stainless steel panels with an engraved "Donations" were added. They have proven to be quite popular with Frist patrons

During his tenure with American Ironware, Maxwell completed several other projects for the Frist Center, the first of which was the 12-foot-square donor recognition wall near the rear entrance of the building. Consisting of steel, glass, transparencies and lighting, the wall was designed and executed by Maxwell after he was chosen from among five finalists for the commission.

Among the other furnishings that Maxwell has designed and produced for the Frist are a 20-foot-by-12-foot boardroom table of steel, wood and etched glass, benches of metal and

leather in the galleries, and a smaller donor wall in the front hallway. He also restored the existing Art Deco grillwork in the building and built 10-foot-by-20-foot stainless steel gates for the small Post Office now housed in the building's lower level.



Herndon & Merry's P.J. Maxwell takes a break on one of the benches he designed and executed for Nashville's Frist Center for the Visual Arts; a donation box he produced for the museum is seen in the inset.

named Vice President of Sales and Design following the merger of his company, American Ironware, with Herndon & Merry.

One notable addition to the museum are the four donation boxes Maxwell designed and crafted. They first served

# An Arbor for All Seasons



*Decorative, hand-wrought vines and leaves add year-round appeal to the pergola created by Herndon & Merry for the Catherine Brown home in Nashville.*

Catherine Brown considers the pergola designed by landscape architect Mike Kaiser and crafted by Herndon & Merry to be one of her home's most interesting features.

"It's attractive year-round," says Brown. "Even in January, things appear to be growing on it." She refers to the hand-wrought iron vines and leaves that H&M incorporated into the design. In spring and summer the piece displays live greenery as well.

Situated on the stone terrace leading to the backyard, the arbor has decorative ironwork on two sides and is

completely open on the other two sides. "It anchors the terrace, but also invites you into the backyard to look at the gardens there," says Brown, who conceptualized the pergola along with Kaiser. Arbors are an increasing portion of H&M's work.

Brown was already familiar with Herndon & Merry's work, having previously commissioned an interior railing. "I told Mike I loved the railing and wanted the same fabulous look in the pergola." Later a Herndon & Merry mailbox with some of same decorative elements found in the pergola was installed at the Brown home.

## It's Gothic, Contemporary & Attention-Getting

When homeowner Michael Burcham renovated his recently purchased home in Brentwood, Tenn., to give it a more contemporary look, he called on Nashville architect Thom Meek to design an entrance gate that would reflect that new style. Meek then called on Herndon & Merry to execute his design, and the result is a gate that brings a distinctive look to the suburban home.

The owner wanted something Gothic but with a contemporary feel," says Meek. "The house itself is very asymmetrical, and that is reiterated in the gate. We used the existing stonework and added a triangular gate of wrought iron and stainless steel with rivets that help convey the Gothic connection."



*Herndon & Merry teamed with architect Thom Meek to produce this unusual entrance gate of wrought iron and stainless steel*

The gate is 12 feet tall at its highest point and 15 feet wide. The unusual design allows it to connect gracefully to the varying heights of the stone wall, which is 12 feet tall on one side and four feet tall on the other.

"I had done a lot of work with Herndon & Merry in the past, and knew the quality of their work," says Meek. "This was a very high-profile residential project, and the degree of detail accomplished by Herndon & Merry was excellent."

# News & Notes

## H&M Wins International Award for Gate

Herndon & Merry recently received a Silver Award from the National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA) for its design and execution of an entrance gate at the home of Tony and Anastasia Brown in Nashville (see *Iron Illustrated*, Vol. 8, #2). The competition was open to more than 1,000 member firms throughout the U.S. and 14 foreign countries.

The NOMMA Ernest Wiemann "Top Job" Awards honor outstanding design and craftsmanship. Entries are voted on by other NOMMA members.

## Scholarship Recipient Chosen

Recent high school graduate Daniel Keough of Chattanooga, who enters college this fall as a freshman at the University of Notre Dame, has been selected as the recipient of the NFIB-Bill Merry, Jr. Free Enterprise Scholars Award, given to a deserving high school senior in Tennessee who has demonstrated entrepreneurial

spirit and initiative.

The \$1,000 scholarship was established by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in



*This entrance gate recently won an award for Herndon & Merry from the National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metals Association (NOMMA).*

recognition of H&M President Bill Merry, Jr.'s service as Chairman of the NFIB Leadership Council in Tennessee. Merry served as Leadership Council Chairman from March 1999 to March 2003.

NFIB, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, is the nation's largest small-business advocacy group.

## Civil Rights Museum Adds H&M Ironwork

"Exploring the Legacy," the newest portion of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, includes an entrance gate made by Herndon & Merry.

Commissioned by Nashville-based 1220 Exhibits, a nationally recognized designer and builder of museum and special events exhibits, the sliding iron gate features words from the famous "I have a dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

An \$11 million expansion project, Exploring the Legacy added 12,800 square feet of exhibition space and connects the main campus of the Museum to the Young and Morrow building and the Main Street Rooming House where James Earl Ray allegedly fired the fatal shot resulting in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"We're very proud to have been selected for this project," says H&M's Bill Merry, Jr. "It's wonderful to know that this gate will be seen by millions of people."

## Herndon & Merry, Inc.

(615) 350-7007

[www.herndonandmerry.com](http://www.herndonandmerry.com)

## Garden Park Antiques by Herndon & Merry

[www.gardenpark.com](http://www.gardenpark.com)

(615) 350-6655

7121 Cockrill Bend Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37209

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