

## Object Spotlight: 137th Street Station, Terracotta Numerical Plaque



Atlantic Terra Cotta Company, [137th Street Station terracotta numerical plaque],  
1904, Object/Artifact Collection; New York Transit Museum.

### What is this?

A terracotta plaque

### Who made it?

Atlantic Terra Cotta Company,  
Perth Amboy, NJ

### How was it made?

This plaque was molded using terracotta, which is a type of clay. It was then fired in a kiln, a type of very hot oven, and finally was painted with glaze.

### How was it used?

What numbers do you see? This plaque is from 137th Street- City College Subway Station.

### DISCOVER

Some subway stations have terracotta and ceramic signs that decorate their walls and give passengers information. Fancy ceramic signs like this one were popular in the oldest subway stations in New York City. What colors, patterns, and designs do you see? What can you say about how this was made?