Blumcraft

Students of Pittsburgh's industrial and business history know well the names U.S. Steel, J&L, and Alcoa. Less well known are the stories of smaller metal companies that worked iron, steel, and aluminum into decorative and industrial products. The story of one such manufacturer, in business locally since 1908 and now known as Blumcraft, will premiere this summer when the museum installs a selection of its wrought iron and aluminum pieces on the 6th floor of the History Center.

Donated by Louis Blum, the artifacts document the pre-World War II production of the company founded by his father, Hyman Blum. An intricately worked iron gate and delicately crafted fireplace screen, for example, harken back to Pittsburgh in the 1920s and '30s, when highly crafted elements like these adorned public buildings and private homes. Visit the Library foyer to see these and other treasures of Pittsburgh's wrought metal past.

This wrought iron gate with bird silhouette made by Hyman Blum around 1918, earned the company artistic and architectural commissions.
— HSWP Museum collection, gift of Louis Blum.
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