

**“Arizona Onyx,”** pp. 289  
**“The Mexican Onyx Quarries,”** pp. 457 &  
**“Mexican Marble”** p. 442

***In Stone: An Illustrated Magazine, Vol. 5, No. 5***  
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These articles, which begin on the next page,  
are presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

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## **“Arizona Onyx”**

*Stone: An Illustrated Magazine*, Vol. 5, No. 5, October 1892, pp. 289

“Arizona onyx is fast gaining reputation in the East, and the day is not far distant when most of the onyx used in the United States will come from this territory. The great beds of this precious stone in Yavapai and Maricopa counties alone, when sufficiently developed, will supply a greater part of the demand. Even now from two to five carloads are shipped from the Yavapai beds, and arrangements are being made to increase the output, and by the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, teams will be moving several tons a day from the Cave Creek mines.

“The Yavapai onyx beds, owned by W. O. O’Neil and partners, are probably the most extensive mines of the kind known, being almost a solid body one mile by one mile and a half in extent. At present about forty men are engaged in taking out the stone that is being shipped to Chicago, New York, Cincinnati and other Eastern cities, where it is worked into table-tops, etc. Probably the largest slab of onyx ever taken out in one piece was dug out of the O’Neil ledge, it being 10 x 23 feet, and 26 inches thick. The stone of the O’Neil ledge, it being 10 x 23 feet, and 26 inches thick. The stone from this claim is very fine grain and takes a much higher polish than the celebrated onyx of Mexico, and it contains colors that were exhausted many years ago in the Mexican mines. Then, too, the mines of that country never turned out pieces larger than five or six feet square. So far as developed, the Cave Creek onyx beds do not seem to be as large as the Yavapai beds, though the stone is as fine, but even as they are, they will produce large amounts and in blocks of very satisfactory size. J. B. Dougherty, of New York, is doing a great deal of development work, and as soon as the road is completed, he will put teams to hauling and loading it on to the cars at Phenix, for shipment to New York. – *Phenix Gazette*.

## **“Mexican Marble”**

*Stone: An Illustrated Magazine*, Vol. 5, No. 5, October 1892, pp. 442

“The marble of Galeana (Chihuahua) is comparable to that of Carrara; that of Tecali, which, although a marble, is known to every one in the United States under the name of Mexican onyx, is of admirable transparency and variety of color. The statue of Nuevo Leon produces a great variety of colored and white marbles, and the same might be said of almost all of the other states. The gray, black and other colored marbles, more or less beautiful, of Orizaba (Vera Cruza) constitute to-day one of the vastest and most important affairs in Mexico. The quarries are very numerous and their exploitation is developed day by day.”

*(See next page for the third article.)*

## “Mexican Onyx Quarries”

*Stone: An Illustrated Magazine*, Vol. 5, No. 5, October 1892, pp. 457-458

“Mr. William Cooper, who has charge of the great onyx quarries of the Mexican Onyx and Trading Company, an American corporation, has been in the City of Mexico for a few days, states that the properties which his company are working, are located on the Hacienda del Carmen, near Esperanzal on the line of the Vera Cruz railroad. The quarries now opened and from which large shipments of onyx are being made weekly, are known as the Old Salinas, New Selinas, Reforma, Palma and Blanco. In these quarries are found red, green, yellow, brown, white and variegated translucent onyx. Heretofore only 500 feet were shipped monthly to New York, but now the output is 1,500 feet, and the demand is greater for the onyx than orders can be filled.

“In opening the quarries Mr. Cooper said that he discovered old workings over which new onyx had formed two feet thick. Between the new formation and the old were found ashes, charred coals, and about a ton of limestone balls five feet in diameter. It is thought that these balls were used to roll the onyx blocks out of the quarries probably hundreds of years ago by the Toltecs.”

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If you'd like to learn more about Arizona Onyx and Mexican Marble/Onyx, visit the links below:

**Rediscovering Arizona Onyx**, by Michael Reis, on Stone World

<http://www.stoneworld.com/articles/rediscovering-arizona-onyx>

“In 1987, Ray Bosiljic founded a masonry company in the Phoenix, AZ, area...”

“But even with this steady pattern of growth, the company's boldest move may have come most recently, with the re-opening of an historic onyx quarry in Mayer, AZ.

“Stoneworld International began working to reopen the quarry three years ago. The site lies along Big Bug Creek in Mayer, an old cowboy town about 75 miles from Phoenix that is 5,000 feet above sea level....”

**The Onyx Fields of Arizona: October 1897 – Mayer, Arizona**, by Mamie Mayer, written for the Weekly Examiner.

<http://www.stoneworldlv.com/uploads/ONYXFIELDS-COMplete-emailable.pdf>

**Mayer quarry's onyx fascinates customers**, by Sue Doerfler, The Arizona Republic  
<file:///C:/Users/Peggy/Documents/STONE%20CARVER%20-%20other/s-ARIZONA/Mayer%20quarry%27s%20onyx%20fascinates%20customers%202008%20article%20-%20Arizona.htm>

(photo caption) “At Ray Bosiljic's quarry at Mayer, there are two onyx varieties: Grand Canyon (in brown, red, white, green layers) and Black Canyon (in black, gray, dark brown, white layers).”

*(Online resources about Mexican Marble/Onyx continue on the next page.)*

**Photographs of Mexican Onyx Blocks**

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/4754177/list/Mexican-Onyx-Blocks>

**Dexpan® Non-Explosive Marble Quarrying in Torréon Marble Quarries,**  
Torréon, Mexico, 2000 (*includes several photographs of a Mexican marble quarry and  
work shop*)

<http://www.dexpan.com/dexpan-quarry-marble-quarrying-mining-marlbe-quarry-equipment-torreon-mex.aspx>