“Some Decoration Day Observations”

A consideration of memorial art as exhibited in a few designs of memorials erected this spring

By L. A. Whitehouse

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The article begins:

“Before the close of the Civil War the 30th of May was observed as a holiday in several of the Southern states for the purpose of decorating with flags and flowers the graves of soldiers killed in the war. In the North there was no fixed day commonly celebrated until on May 5th, 1868, when Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating the date ‘for the purpose of strewing with flowers and otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion…In 1882 the Grand Army urged that the ‘proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day’ – not Decoration Day. However, no matter which way one may designate it, the day plays a big part in the pans of the monument man, and it is previous to this day, each year, that he erects many of his most highly prized achievements – the work to which he points for proof of his fitness to serve.

“Among the photographs of such work which have been brought to the attention of the writer that deserve special comment are many examples of good design and workmanship, as evidenced by the accompanying illustrations…”

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

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A Consideration of Memorial Art as Exhibited in a Few Designs of Memorials Erected This Spring
BY L. A. WHITEHOUSE.

BEFORE the close of the Civil War the 30th of May was observed as a holiday in several of the Southern states for the purpose of decorating with flags and flowers the graves of soldiers killed in the war. In the North there was no fixed day commonly celebrated until on May 5th, 1868, when Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating the date “for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion”; Logan did this “with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year.” In 1882 the Grand Army argued that the “proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day”—not Decoration Day. However, no matter which way one may designate it, the day plays a big part in the plans of the monument man, and it is previous to this

Among the photographs of such work which have been brought to the attention of the writer that deserve special comment are many examples of good design and workmanship, as evidenced by the accompanying illustrations.

All of us are interested in the work of “the other fellow” and those who have been kind enough to make this somewhat limited exhibition possible reflect the guiding spirit of the association.

A few remarks concerning the different illustrations here employed may not be amiss and the

Read the captions for more information.
The Hill monument was “Erected by F. D. Black, Grand Rapids, Michigan.”

The Smith monument was “Erected by Edward A. Carroll Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.”
The Snodgrass monument is “A double design erected for decoration day by the Sears Monument Co., Charleston, West Virginia.”
The Martin monument was “Erected by Carl Manthey & Sons, Green Bay, Wisconsin.”

The Arthur A. End monument was “Erected by Stolzer Granite Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.”

Vase on the left and cross on the right erected by George A. Detwiler, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. Marker designed and erected by H. A. Mason Co., Erie, Pennsylvania.”

(photo captions) (above, left) The Martin monument was “Erected by Carl Manthey & Sons, Green Bay, Wisconsin.”
The Wallower “Mausoleum (was) designed and built this summer (1917) by the Colwell Granite Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Fred E. Beach, retail dealer at Sleepy Eye, Minn., recently received a large shipment of granite from St. Cloud, Minn. He has orders for Sleepy Eye, Leavenworth, Hendricks, Canby and other points in his territory.

O. S. Bowen, retail dealer at Coshocton, O., is using a description of some fine memorial in its newspaper advertising in order to create an interest in the better class of work. This will prove very productive in an educational way for the people in his territory. Last month in one of his advertisements he used this description: “The Lincoln monument in Chicago is one of the most pretentious sculptural memorials erected in this country. Surrounding the base are four figures typifying the virtues and activities of the man in whose memory the monument was erected.” A line out of this monument is shown.

Harry J. Knipe, Columbia, Pa., is a believer in newspaper advertising and his advertisements show that he gives a great deal of thought to the wording. In one of his advertisements last month he made this statement: “Prices very moderate, compared with our way of doing the work.” This is in marked contrast to the many advertisements that read: “The best work at the lowest prices.”

Edward C. Kreutzer, retail monument dealer at Wheeling, W. Va., secured the contract for the monument to Maj. Samuel McCulloch, on a design made by himself. The monument will be dedicated in September. The funds for this work were raised by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Toulan Monument Works, Toulan, Ill., recently secured the contract for a large monument to be erected in Andover, Henry County, to the Rev. Satterdahl, for 18 years pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church at that place.

B. C. Bruce, retail dealer at Holdredge, Neb., is erecting a large memorial on his own lot to the memory of his deceased wife, Emma C. Bruce.

C. V. Priest, proprietor of the Newark Monument Co., Newark, O., recently received a carload of new stock work and is inviting the public to see his work as displayed in his showroom.

Fire recently destroyed the large shed of Adler’s Monument & Granite Works in New York City with a loss estimated at about $100,000. Sparks from the boiler house are given as the cause of the fire.

Richard A. Swanson, R. A. Swanson Monumental Co., Denver, Colo., reports that he has just

(photo captions) (top left) The Wallower “Mausoleum (was) designed and built this summer (1917) by the Colwell Granite Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.” (right) The Hale monument is “One of the good designs erected this spring (1917) by the Sears Monument Co., Charleston, West Virginia.” (lower left) The Carson monument is “A fine Decoration Day memorial erected by W. R. Caton & Son, Winfield, Kansas.”
The Carl Manthey monument was "Erected this spring (1917) by Carl Manthey & Sons Co., Green Bay, Wisconsin. It is interesting to note that Carl Manthey has erected this monument as his own private memorial."

Some Decoration Day work of J. Bianchi & Son, Buffalo, New York. Good example of design suited to its surroundings. (The Eberhardt monument is in the above page.)