

The New Orleans Tomb

PART III

By Leonard V. and Albert R. Huber

This month's tomb is a popular type; it is a large family vault having plenty of crypt space and it can be erected for a reasonable price. The capacity is 6 caskets in the above ground crypts and there is room for 4 more in the receptacle. It is just the type of tomb which would satisfy the needs of a large family, who, when they have a desire for above-ground interment and cannot find an individual family sepulchre at prices comparing with the prices of public mausoleum crypts, usually end up by going into the community mausoleum.

The Rogers tomb should sell for about ——. (The price may be had by writing the publisher) The price per crypt, if we include the capacity of the receptacle, is considerably lower than the average price of public mausoleum crypts and the construction of the public vaults is not to be mentioned in the same breath with the durable way in which this tomb is erected.

To go back to where we left off last month—we will discuss the door. The door is one of the distinctive features of the New Orleans tomb and its comparatively cheap cost over bronze doors and its ability to take inscriptions make its use universal in that city. A properly fitted door should cost a little over a hundred dollars for the small type of tomb and in a tomb like the "Rogers" about \$350.00 with its companion false door. The door is generally composed of a piece of 2" thick granite, usual-

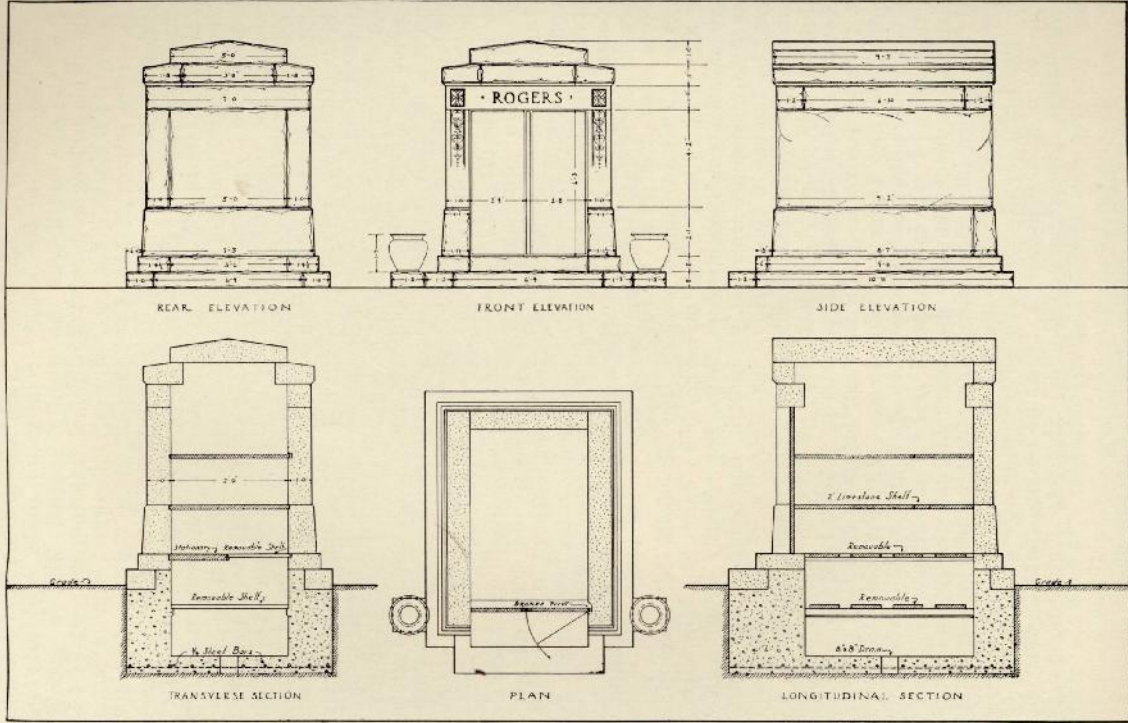
ly sawn on the back and polished or ironed on the front.

The door is fitted with two bronze hinges which fit into two bronze pivots, one fastened to the lintel and the other into the sill of the tomb. A bronze lock and key are fastened at the same time. The whole set, lock, pivots, hinges, screws, key and escutcheon may be purchased for \$10.00.

The pivots must be fitted into the sill and lintel after careful calculation so that the door will swing true; the hinges and lock must be fitted to the door by a skilled granite cutter and fastened with molten lead. In this connection it may be mentioned that the lintel course is not set until the door is swinging. It is important that the lintel course be anchored together with copper clamps set in molten lead.

In the "Rogers" tomb only one of the two apparent doors swings—the right hand one; the left side is immovable and should be carefully dowelled in setting. The right hand slab is several inches larger in width than the left due to the lines running down its left side. These are placed there to give the opening enough width to let a casket pass the entrance easily and to add to the vertical lines of the tomb and otherwise embellish its facade.

Setting the roof is determined by the weight of the stone and the capacity of the derrick. On the smaller tombs which have roofs in three pieces it is simply a matter of hoisting; where the weight of the roof is 8 to 10



or more tons and a boom derrick is not available it is necessary to jack the roof to the height of the lintel and roll it onto the tomb. This jacking is done with the aid of 6 x 6 blocks, (or larger). It is vitally important that the blocking be stable or a serious mishap may occur when the tomb-top is 8 or 9 feet in the air.

The "Rogers" design has its side-panels in one piece. This eliminates the usual lining such as described in the last article. Crypt slabs may be fitted into rabbets cut as shown on the drawings or if this is not possible a series of holes 1" wide, 4" deep, 7" apart should be drilled along the inside of each panel at the corbel line. These holes are fitted with short lengths of $\frac{1}{4}$ " copper wire set in lead. The ends of the wires are twisted together and used as a core for the corbel which is made of cement mortar cast into wood forms on the panels. Of course this work should be done when the panels are on the ground.

Note that the scale of the vases is entirely in keeping with the size of the tomb. Probably more mausolea which would otherwise pass muster are irrevocably ruined by the use of ugly or tiny or monstrous flower-vases, which are apparently added at the last moment to satisfy the non-existent taste of the owner, than is apparent at first thought. The use of free-standing rustic crosses on the roofs of tombs is a crime which no designer should willingly be bullied into when there is so much opportunity to use this wonderful symbol in the pediment or on the lintel.

We digress, however, and must jump from the aesthetic to the practical, and discuss the finishing touches such as cleaning, etc. The tomb should be thoroughly

cleaned with a hose, scrubbing brush, sack-and-sand and a dilute solution of oxalic acid may be lightly applied with a sponge to facilitate matters. It is extremely important that this be neutralized by the use of plenty of water followed by Octagon Soap suds and more water. Joints should be pointed with a beaded tool, using pure cement.

In the first article of the series it was suggested that the tomb be set on a slight mound to give it dignity and if this has been done the mound should be nicely shaped and the lot planted. \$25 or \$30 invested in shrubs to give the tomb a background of green will add much to its attractiveness.

(To be continued)

Next month will be described an inexpensive marble tomb having a capacity of from 3 to 4 interments.

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**Ruemelin Issues a New Bulletin
No. 14-A.**

The Ruemelin Manufacturing Co., 598 Clinton St., Milwaukee, Wis., has recently issued a new bulletin describing and illustrating their line of Sandblast and Dust Suppression equipment. A copy of this new folder may be had by writing to them.

Attention is especially directed to page 8 of the folder in which the new Ruemelin Super Air Dryer is described. This remarkable unit removes all moisture from compressed air lines, a matter which has received the attention of experts. This device has no moving parts to wear out and therefore incurs no maintenance cost. It uses the same cooling water as the compressor and has proven most efficient in service.