“American Stone Abroad”

(Statuary group of Indiana Limestone “in the great arch over the portal of Bush House, London” & Carving of Indiana limestone over the entrance of the First National Bank of Boston at Buenos Aires, South America)

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(Note: On the last page of this scanned document, two other articles are included: (1) “Indiana Quarrymen Meet at Purdue” (The Indiana Limestone Quarrymen’s Association met at Purdue University.) & (2) “Town-Planning Tour of England” (“The Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of England have made arrangements for a special housing and town-planning tour to take place from September 21 to 30….”)

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American Stone Abroad

OVER the portals of Bush House, facing Kingsway, London, there now stands an imposing group of statuary symbolizing the friendship of the English speaking peoples. These two figures of heroic size comprising the statuary group, the base upon which they stand and the other decorative features are carved from blocks of No. 1 Buff Indiana Limestone from a design by an American-English Sculptress, assisted by an English carver of American adoption. The group, fitting enough, was unveiled on Independence Day, and by Lord Balfour.

In Buenos Aires, South America, there has just been completed an ornate office building for the First National Bank of Boston of Spanish style of architecture with an elaborately carved entrance of Indiana Limestone.

With the world as a field it is indeed a tribute to American stone that it was singled out for these two works of art, both of which were executed in this country and shipped to their destinations finished and ready for setting. Other countries, notably Italy, have enjoyed this distinction of furnishing carved stone and statuary for countries less fortunate in possessing sculptors and carvers of note and ability and American art circles may now claim an honor long held abroad. But this ascendency of American art and American material must not be permitted to arouse jealousy or to engender ill feeling, but rather to foster a feeling of friendship and helpfulness in the sharing of our products and workmanship with our brothers of other races and nations. Irving T. Bush, when he conceived the idea of adding to the architecture of Bush House, London, resolved that the building should constitute a monument to Anglo-American friendship and he declared at the unveiling of the statuary group on July 4th last that it was a tribute from an American business organization deeply conscious of the friendship of the British people. "It was sometimes urged," Mr. Bush said, "that relations between nations should be based upon self interest and without sentiment." He liked to think, he continued, that this was not true; that there was room in the heart of a nation for the spirit of friendship and kindness. "If only a few passing this busy spot looked at the statuary and read the dedication and went on their way with a trifle more warmth of friendship in their hearts we would be content," he said in explaining the feelings of the American donors of the group. Preceeding the unveiling ceremony, Lord Balfour spoke briefly on the similarity of the two English speaking peoples, declaring that this similarity was never more manifest than when they were divided by war.

The group of statuary consists of two figures, each twelve feet high, the one on the right representing the United States and the other Great Britain, clasping a torch of progress and pledging friendship over an altar. A Celtic cross shows the common origin of both peoples. Besides each figure stands a shield carved with the coat of arms of its respective country. The group is the work of Malvina Hoffman, daughter of an English father and an American mother and is a message in stone to the lands of both. Miss Hoffman was assisted by Mr. Robert A. Baillie, carver. The entire group, with the possible exception of a few finishing details, which were done at the time of setting in London, was cut and carved from blocks of Indiana Limestone from the quarries of the Indiana Quarries Company. The carving was done at the studio of Mr. Baillie at Closter, N. J. About ninety tons of stone in blocks was used. The group when finished weighed about 42 tons and was shipped to London in eleven sections. The accompanying illustration shows the group set at the Closter studio ready for crating and shipping and the sections can be easily distinguished. This is the largest of the statuary works of Miss Hoffman, smaller objects being on exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Luxembourg Gardens, Paris. Bush

Statuary Group in Indiana Limestone which stands in the great arch over the portal of Bush House, London, symbolical of friendship between English Speaking Peoples. Helmle & Corbett, Architects; Malvina Hoffman, Sculptor.

(photo caption) "Statuary group in Indiana limestone which stands in the great arch over the portal of Bush House, London, symbolical of friendship between English speaking peoples. Helmle & Corbett, Architects; Malvina Hoffman, Sculptor."

House, London, in the great arch over the portal in which this group stands, was designed by Helmle & Corbett, American architects. As a recognition of his work in the designing of Bush House, Mr. Corbett was recently honored by being awarded an honorary degree in architecture by Liverpool University.

At first glance the illustration of the entrance of the First National Bank of Boston Building at Buenos Aires resembles a bit of Spanish architecture of bygone days. But it is Spanish only in conception. Silver Gray Indiana Limestone furnished by the Indiana Quarries Company is the material used. When all parts of this delicate and intricate carved work had been assembled in the plant of William Bradley & Son, Long Island City, N.Y., it was crated and shipped to the South American city for setting in the bank building, the main part of which was constructed of South American stone and other materials. The design for this entrance was furnished by the architects of the building, Messrs. York & Sawyer. The modelers were Ricci & Zari, sculptors and carvers, John Donnelly & Company. In point of size and elaborateness of design and detail of carving this entrance, which also includes the windows on either side of the doorway columns, is one of the largest ever shipped from this country for erection in another country and proof of the facilities and artistry of America to furnish cut and carved stone in quantity, as well as quality of workmanship.

Elaborately Carved Gray Indiana Limestone Entrance of New Branch Bank Building of the First National Bank of Boston at Buenos Aires, S. A. Architects: York & Sawyer.

Indiana Quarrymen Meet at Purdue

The Indiana Limestone Quarrymen's Association, in its efforts to serve the cut stone trade, as well as the architects and the users of their material, have, under the research arrangement with Purdue University, undertaken a scientific investigation of various problems in connection with the use of their product. One of these problems is the prevention of discoloration of the stone which occurs where moisture from certain kinds of mortar and concrete construction is permitted to pass through the stone in the drying out of the walls. A thorough investigation into the cause of this trouble, its prevention and cure, is being made by scientific study of all forms of mortar materials and their action on limestone. The members of the board of directors of the Indiana Limestone Quarrymen's Association met with the Purdue University authorities in charge of the school of chemical engineering. The members of the board heard a report of the progress of the school in its investigation work on Indiana Limestone and later visited the laboratories where the work is being conducted. Those who attended the meeting were: Thomas J. Vernia, president of the association; A. E. Dickinson, vice-president; Edgar Lunn, secretary; R. M. Richter, chairman of the Purdue Committee; W. Benton McMillan, S. C. Fresse, Irvin S. Matthews; H. S. Brightly, technical director of the association; J. R. S. Scott, service director of the association; Dean A. A. Potter, head of the school of chemical engineering; Prof. H. C. Peffer and Prof. F. O. Andregg of of the chemistry department of Purdue University, who are in direct charge of the limestone investigation work.

Town-Planning Tour of England

The Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of England have made arrangements for a special housing and town-planning tour to take place from September 21 to 30. The places to be visited have been carefully selected so as to give the widest possible variety of examples of what is being done. The tour will include visits to slum areas and slum clearance schemes, new housing estates being developed by the big corporations of the North and South, the industrial villages of Port Sunlight and New Earswick, the garden cities of Letchworth and Welwyn, and the town-planning schemes prepared and in course of execution by the Corporations of Manchester and Liverpool. Opportunities will be given, in the course of the tour, for the inspection of houses erected by various new methods of construction. The tour will be personally conducted, and representatives of those responsible for the local administration of the various schemes will accompany the party in the places visited. The tour will thus afford, under the most favorable auspices, a unique opportunity of seeing what is being done. The tour has been planned specially to meet the needs of members of local authorities and social workers concerned in housing and town-planning reform.

(photo caption) "Elaborately carved gray Indiana limestone entrance of new branch bank building of the First National Bank of Boston at Buenos Aires, S. A. Architects: York & Sawyer."