

Stone-Related Articles from *Stone Magazine*

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These articles, which begin on the next page,
are presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

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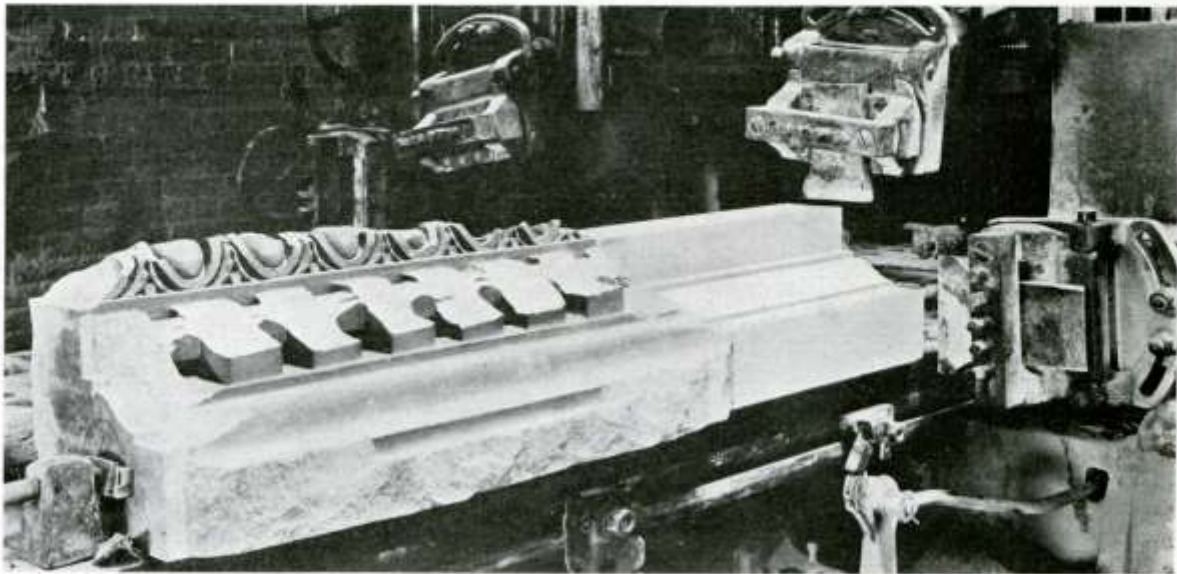
Recutting Stone from an Old Building

WE have no means of knowing when men first began to work stone, but we do know it was very shortly after the scattered, wandering tribes ceased to be nomadic and settled down to build themselves into nations. Indeed, there was a certain working of stone long before this, for in immemorial ages past the rudest savages chipped flint pebbles into weapons and implements. What we term the Stone Age, with its two divisions of Paleolithic and Neolithic, has, properly speaking, no relation to chronology, but is merely descriptive of the stage of development of any people. Ingrained in every human creature are two closely related traits, one an insatiable curiosity as to the past of the race, and the other a desire to leave some imperishable record of his own existence for the ages to come. To gratify this latter whim, he naturally turned to the great imperishable tablets that Nature spread before him, the living rocks. Before written language was invented, the savage scratched on the walls of caverns rude representations of his battles with men and beasts. As his hand grew deft, he progressed from flat outlines to carvings in the round, and instead of contenting himself with caves for shelter, he built up walls of hewn stone. Entire races have perished from the earth and left no records save those that they cut in stone. We should know nothing of the prehistoric nations of Easter Island were it not for the monster heads they carved in volcanic lava. Pyramids, temples and monuments, covered with elaborate carving, still standing in good repair in the jungles of Mexico and Central America,

tell of a strange civilization that flourished on our continent long before the coming of Columbus, but all the rest is dark. The greater part of the history of Egypt is written in carven stone, and has come down to us in no other form. It is true that one of the greatest gifts of Greece to humanity, epic poetry, was saved to us at first by oral tradition, but the other priceless heritage, Grecian art, would have perished utterly had not its media been the marbles of Pentelikos and Paros.

The civilization of the world today is due in large part to what mankind has been able to dig from the bowels of the earth. The various metals have made possible our material advancement, while two of the most important of the arts, sculpture and architecture, have depended almost wholly upon stone for their expression. For thousands of years, marble, granite, limestone and sandstone, have been hewn into form, cut with loving care, perhaps, in elaborate ornamentation, and laid up in humble houses or princely palaces, heathen fanes or christian churches, public memorials to conquering heroes or simple head-stones for the household dead. Because these things were wrought in imperishable stone, they have survived for the wondering admiration of succeeding ages.

It is the durability of stone, as well as its natural beauty, that has commended it as the choicest material for architecture. Stones cut hundreds and even thousands of years ago still stand as the master craftsmen laid them up, and time has but softened the outlines and mellowed the colors. Indeed, it has been the prac-



BLOCK OF STONE FROM AN OLD BUILDING BEING RECUT

Indiana limestone from a twenty-one-years-old residence dressed for use in a new commercial building

(photo caption) "Block of stone from an old building being recut. Indiana limestone from a twenty-one-years-old residence dressed for use in a new commercial building."

tice for untold generations when a building has outlived its usefulness to set the old stones in a new structure. The Colosseum served as a veritable quarry in the middle ages, and two-thirds of its vast walls found place in the homes and palaces of Rome. Hundreds upon hundreds of marble columns that played a part in the worship of Venus or the feasts of Bacchus, now adorn the Christian churches of Europe, and even the houses of rich Americans.

The marvellous growth of this country and the rapid shifting of population has made necessary an amount of rebuilding entirely unknown in the old world. Most of the buildings that give way to modern improvements are of cheap and perishable materials that have long outgrown their usefulness and are fit only to be scrapped. Occasionally, however, a fine stone structure stands in the way of necessary development. Always the most prodigal of people in the squandering of our wealth of resources, we are learning thrift. We have discovered that natural stone, "durable as the eternal hills," outlasts any structure built by human hands, and can be used again and again in buildings without deterioration, and each time as fresh and beautiful as if it had just been taken from the quarry.

There have been many instances in recent years of the recutting and resetting in new buildings of stone from older structures that have been torn down to make room for more modern ones. One of the most interesting cases is now to be recorded in this city. Twenty-one years ago a fine residence was erected by Charles H. Senss on the northwest corner of Madison Avenue and Forty-first Street. The building was designed by Carrere & Hastings and was of Indiana limestone. Recently the property was sold to the Fred F. French Company, architects and builders, who are erecting a large commercial building on the site. There is no stone that weathers more perfectly than Indiana limestone, and that in the Senss house is just as good as the day it was set in the walls, twenty-one years ago. It was determined, therefore, to use the old stone in the new building, particularly desirable at this time in view of the high costs of all building materials and the transportation difficulties. Because of the entirely different character of the two buildings, the stone has to be recut. We are giving herewith photographs of one of the large carved blocks from the old house being worked over in a planer, and also of a pile of the recut blocks. The stone, of course, looks just as bright and fresh as when new. All of the stone was cut for the original building by John Sinclair, and is being recut by John R. Smith's Son, Inc. There could be no stronger tribute than this to the durability, beauty and true economy of natural stone as a structural material.

Precious Stones Inlaid in Marble

The famous Taj Mahal, at Agra, is universally acknowledged to be the most beautiful building in the world. Erected by the Emperor Shah Jehan

as a mausoleum for his favorite wife, Mumtaz-i-Mahal, it was finished in 1632, says an exchange. Twenty thousand men were employed for twenty-two years in its construction. One of its most remarkable features is the jewel-work with which the structure is adorned. In what is known as the "style of the Moguls"—though no other building of theirs ever approached the Taj in this respect—it is inlaid with semi-precious stones. All the angles and more important architectural details are thus ornamented with agates, bloodstones, jaspers, etc., in wreaths, scrolls and frets.

Ornamentation of this kind is bestowed with special lavishness upon the tombs of the emperor and his wife—the latter occupying a central position beneath the great white marble dome, which is eighty feet high and fifty-eight feet in diameter. Inlaid in the marble, the gem-stones employed in the manner described furnish the most exquisitely beautiful adornment known to architecture.

Quarries Barred in City Limits When a Nuisance

The Montana Supreme Court has handed down a decision that quarries may not be operated within city limits or in residential sections when they are a public nuisance. The decision was in a suit brought by William F. Fagan against Joseph Silver, the plaintiff claiming that his home was rendered uninhabitable by flying rocks and dust from a quarry and crushing plant owned by the defendant. Silver appealed on the grounds that the quarry was operated by an independent contractor who was getting out stone for him. The court holds on this point, that "An employer may not divest himself of the primary duty he owes to other members of the community by contracting with others for the performance of work, the necessary or probable result of which is injury to third persons."

Skyscrapers Here and Elsewhere

The question is being hotly debated whether London and other English cities should now, in the interests of economical building, run to "skyscrapers" in the New York fashion. The latest convert to the idea is Sir Martin Conway, whose view it is that the East End of London should be "flattened and then up-ended," says a writer in the Manchester "Guardian." His supporters picture Whitechapel Road, for instance, as a series of green spaces, with buildings of 20 stories or so at intervals, which would amply house more than the present population. His critics do not hesitate to suggest that only his pre-eminence as a mountaineer can account for his wish to see the city landscapes dominated by such architectural peaks. The more serious opponents of the change hold that the real remedy for congested cities must be found in the development of garden suburbs, and that the building of skyscrapers would only retard a sane and healthy distribution of population. Some real good may

come of the controversy, for at least it sets people thinking of the essential character of the cities in which they dwell, and the form that changes in that character should take. The London building line is at present about 100 feet. Where that is exceeded it is by the spires and domes of great national and religious buildings. A general license to forego the limitation would alter the whole face of London, and buildings that are not less jewels because they are small, such as the Abbey and a score of lesser churches, would be dwarfed by vast commercial and residential structures.

New York is a freak city. It has made, in a wonderful way, the very most of its physical handicaps. It could not run to length and breadth, and it has therefore run to height. London, Edinburgh and Dublin are under no such limitations, and it will be an ill day for their distinctive beauty when a Woolworth Building looms over Princes Street or Piccadilly. On the other hand, there is something to be said on the aesthetic as well as the practical side for the solidly-built flats that distinguish Glasgow and Edinburgh, some parts of London, and almost all the great continental cities. So far as appearance counts, they afford a chance for architectural treatment, for dignified façades, and noble proportions, such as the cottage dwelling cannot have. From the point of view of convenience, run on the communal principle, with central heating, a restaurant, and a general domestic staff, they fill a want for which there is a growing demand in city life. Their ideal height will be dictated by the safe rule that it should not exceed the breadth of the road on which they stand. If that limitation be faithfully observed, building might in this country run to height more than it does, with both practical and artistic advantage.

Building Activities in New York Cities

The total estimated cost of building work authorized in March was 39 per cent greater than the February total, and was nearly three times as great as the total for March of last year, as reported by the building departments. The March, 1920, total for the ten cities is \$33,713,979, of which \$28,314,494 represents work authorized in New York City. The gain from February to March was considerably greater in up-State cities than in New York City. The Schenectady and Utica estimates of the cost of building work authorized in March are above normal and probably do not represent a condition that will be sustained. Considerable increases are also reported for Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and Troy, and smaller increases for Binghamton, Syracuse and Yonkers. In New York City, Richmond Borough shows the greatest gain of the month. Queens Borough and Brooklyn also show considerable gains from February to March. Little change appears in the figures for Manhattan and the Bronx.

Although the March total estimated cost of building

work authorized is considerably higher in 1920 than in any of the previous five years, the actual amount of work represented was probably greater in 1915 and 1916.

Colossal Statue of Columbus in Marble

As voyagers entering the harbor of the greatest city of North America behold the majestic Statue of Liberty, so within the present year those coming to the greatest city of South America, Buenos Aires, will behold a majestic sentinel, a towering statue of Christopher Columbus.

The monument of the great navigator will not, like the Liberty Statue in New York, stand in the harbor, for Buenos Aires has no real harbor, but will rise nearly 100 feet in height from a point near the water's edge. The site selected is in the broad Paseo Colon, in front of the Government House, whence the statue will overlook the beautiful Plaza Colon and the wide expanse of the River Plate as it enters the ocean.

Representing ten years' labor of the sculptor, Arnaldo Zocchi, appropriately a native of the country in which the discoverer of America was born, the monument soon will be shipped from the artist's workshop in Rome to Buenos Aires, according to recent advices. The image of the navigator is itself 22 feet high, carved out of a single block of marble.

Critics who have visited the sculptor's workshop recently and seen the work virtually completed write that, for symbolic beauty and grandeur of proportions, the monument will be one of the most impressive in the world.

"The column supporting the statue of the navigator is placed upon an ample socle covered with sculptured scenes and figures," says a Rome correspondent of *La Razon*. "The front part of the socle is the bow of a Latin ship about to be launched into the sea by four



BLOCKS OF RECUT STONE

Indiana limestone taken from an old building and prepared for use in a new building

(photo caption) "Blocks of recut stone. Indiana limestone taken from an old building and prepared for use in a new building."

youths with naked torsos bent with effort. The scene represents the start of the caravels of Columbus from the port of Palos, Spain.

"High up on the bow of the vessel is the figure of Civilization. In the toga of a Roman matron, she extends with naked arm the torch which illumines the new lands and toward which a youth beside her—Genius—gazes with inspired countenance.

"From this base rises the pedestal, slender as the tower of a light-house, and on its summit, straight and up-standing, in his hands a navigation chart half unfolded, towers above all the yet youthful figure of Christopher Columbus."

Activity in the Indiana Limestone Field

There is most unusual activity in the Indiana limestone district, in the quarrying and shipping of stone. The demand for the stone is unprecedentedly large from all parts of the country. A representative of the Consolidated Stone Company writes as follows of the activity at the Dark Hollow quarry: "All of our stripping is completed for the season and we are now quarrying in five openings. In one opening, without an additional penny to be spent for stripping, we have



ONE MONTH'S QUARRYING

Stack at the Dark Hollow Quarry of the Consolidated Stone Company, Bedford

over 1,000,000 cubic feet of sound building stone. In the other openings, without any additional stripping, we have over 2,000,000. The stone is now coming so fast from these openings that fifteen derricks, a switching engine and full train crew, together with our own locomotive crane, are in continuous operation to take care of the material. In the fifty years that our quarry has been operating we have never had better prospects for good stone, and never has the stone been of as fine a quality as we are getting now."

We are presenting a photograph of one of the stacks at the Dark Hollow quarry. This represents just one month's quarrying.

A Cathedral Half a Century in Building

The Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Colman at Queenstown, Ireland, has recently been finished, the

work of construction having occupied about half a century. The outer walls are of blue Dalkey granite, with cut stone dressings of mallow limestone. The columns of the nave, shrines, and confessionals are of Irish marble from the quarries of Fermoy, Middleton, and Connemara. The tower is faced with Newry granite, but the spire is of limestone.

The Great Potash Deposits of Germany

The potash deposits of Germany, which were discovered by the Prussian Government in 1843 at Stassfurt while boring for rock salt and which occur in upper layers of rock salt in the plains of northern Germany, have been estimated to carry a volume of 10,790,000,000 cubic meters and to contain 20,000,000,000 metric tons of potash salts, corresponding to about 2,000,000,000 metric tons of potash (K₂O), a quantity sufficient to supply the world for 2,000 years at the present rate of consumption. These beds, according to the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, were first exploited about 1860, and have furnished practically the entire world's supply of potash for many years.

Good Limestone in Peru

Trade Commissioner Carlton Jackson is of the opinion that the importation into Peru of good lime, both hydrated and unslaked, would be a profitable enterprise. The lime made in the city of Lima has probably "less than 50 per cent of the efficiency of the first-class American product," states Mr. Jackson, and yet it sells for \$3 gold per barrel of 240 pounds. Pure limestone is known to exist in the mountains, but is inaccessible because of lack of transportation facilities.

Will Develop Arkansas Marble Deposit

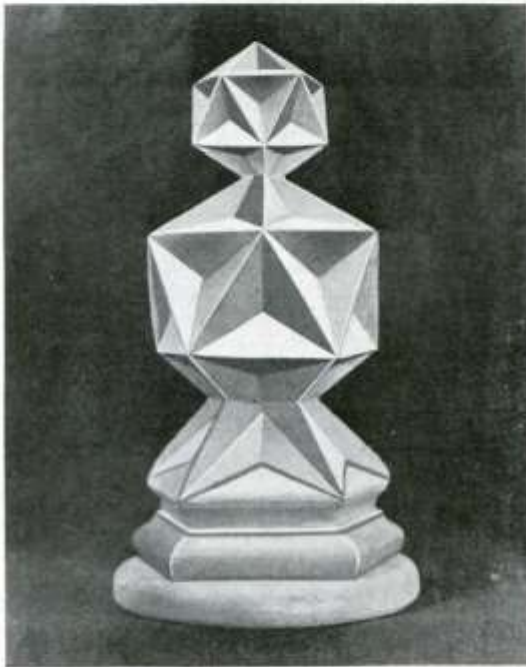
John Cockrum, a farmer living near Lone Rock, Ark., has just sold a valuable deposit of marble which lies near Lone Rock, to a Missouri company. The company will develop it. The deposit underlies several hundred acres along Mill Creek, and is mentioned by Branner in his report on the stone resources of the state. The marble is white, red and gray and can be used for both exterior and interior work.

Novel Garden Ornaments

There is a constantly growing use of stone garden ornaments in this country. In our large estates there are often elaborate terraces, with pergolas, balustrades or even colonnades, fountains and pools. Even small and modest gardens make use of benches, sun dials, vases and the like. There is nothing that gives a more attractive finish to a well laid out and well planted garden than a bit of stone carving. Charles Maurice Dunn, a member of Marble Cutters Local, No. 4, New York, has occupied

(photo caption) "One Month's Quarrying. Stack at the Dark Hollow Quarry of the Consolidated Stone Company, Bedford." (Indiana)

his leisure hours in designing a number of novel garden ornaments, and he has carved models of these in Caen stone. We take pleasure in showing photographs of two of these. The leading motif which Mr. Dunn has employed is the five-pointed star, and this should make appeal to American patriotism. This is used very ingeniously in one of the designs, which shows the star from whichever point it is viewed. Mr. Dunn is a stone-cutter of many years' experience, and has worked on some of the most notable stone jobs in all parts of the



GARDEN ORNAMENT FEATURING THE AMERICAN STAR
Model cut in Caen stone by Charles Maurice Dunn of
the local Marble Cutters' Union

country. He also designed and cut in miniature in stone two architectural novelties. One is a double spiral staircase, a beautiful and intricate construction. The other is of somewhat similar design, but substitutes for the second staircase a winding ramp or chute. This latter suggests interesting possibilities in construction, either for the bringing of automobiles to the higher levels of a building, or as a means of fire escape. For the latter purpose the staircase would give uninterrupted egress from the building, while the firemen could drag in their hose and fight the fire by way of the ramp.

Sand from the Great Lakes

Canadian builders and construction interests will suffer most by the passage of proposed amendment to the Ontario beach protection act now pending before the legislative assembly of that province. The amendment forbids the taking of sand from Lakes Erie,

Huron and Ontario on the Canadian side of the border without a license issued from the office of the lieutenant-governor.

This is the opinion of the executive committee of Great Lakes Sand and Gravel Producers' Association, which points out that while some sand and gravel is taken from Canadian waters, especially in the vicinity of Pelee Island in Lake Erie, a great amount of building sand and gravel is obtained only in lake waters adjacent to the American shore.

"If American firms are prohibited from taking material from Canadian waters," a statement issued by the board says, "they will not be interested in furnishing sand and gravel to Canadian builders from American waters. This is not a one-sided affair and should be regarded as a reciprocal proposition."

The Road Building Problem

At the sixth annual convention of the American Association of Engineers, held in St. Louis the past month, A. N. Johnson, consulting engineer, said: "The



MODEL OF GARDEN ORNAMENT
Cut in Caen limestone by Charles M. Dunn, showing
the five-pointed star

problem of building roads in America is limited by transportation. There is approximately \$650,000,000 to be spent on roads this year, whereas only a fourth of that amount was available last year. The amount of road-building that can be done is measured by the number of cars that can be secured. In Illinois and New York, road contracts have been stopped because of this. It is up to the railroads to say how many of the roads can be built."

(photo captions) "Garden Ornament Featuring the American Star. Model cut in Caen stone by Charles Maurice Dunn of the local Marble Cutters' Union." & "Model of Garden Ornament. Cut in Caen limestone by Charles M. Dunn, showing the five-pointed star."