

## stonexus

STONEXUS, the magazine - OUR magazine, is here made manifest.

What was an idea a year ago is a present day reality. You have in your hands the first issue, the prototype, the working model from which STONEXUS will evolve.

The intention has been to create something both interesting and informative. Please communicate what you think about the magazine and the various elements of which it is composed. Letters of comment and criticism are not only welcome, they are requested.

Requested as well are suggestions about material for future issues. Several of the interesting articles in this issue have been previously published and, but for their appearance here, would not have come to your notice. Readers are encouraged to recommend articles from other magazines or journals, excerpts from books or other publications on interesting aspects of the craft of stonework. Graphics too; photographs and drawings sent in will be considered for inclusion

STONEXUS is an in-house publication. Most of the articles in this first issue are original material, written by STONE FOUNDATION members. Outlines of proposed articles and/or original photographs, will be considered for inclusion in future issues of the magazine. There are, of course, no guarantees of publication and all material sent should be accompanied with return postage.

STONEXUS is more than a magazine. It is also the forerunner of an envisioned book:

### THE OLD STONE ROAD

The title is a metaphor for all that man has, through the ages, wrought with this obdurate, primal material; for the traditions of stone work,.

This articulate road originated in the remote past. It is more than ten thousand years long. It is our heritage, solid vestiges of which, varied in scale and style, speak of their makers still.

This book will not be a monograph, but a vast and varied compendium of material, a veritable bible of stone craft. It will be assembled, like a fieldstone wall, of elements diverse in character and dissimilar in size and shape. Previously printed pieces will, with permission, be reprinted in their original typescript (as we have done, in this issue of the magazine with the 1899 Manual and the excerpt from Stud Terkel's WORKING)

The weighty volume will be produced by THE STONE FOUNDATION, that is to say, us. I will be, not the writer of the book, but its editor. Combining results of my own research with materials collected and contributed by you, the other members of our "lithological" society, I will build this book.

STONEXUS and THE OLD STONE ROAD are instruments, tools with which to effect the stated mission of THE STONE FOUNDATION which is: to preserve and perpetuate the traditions of the craft of structural stonework. The craft has been overshadowed by the technological developments of the last century and relegated to the periphery of architectural endeavor, but a lost art it is not. Like stone it endures, continuously redeemed by the diligent labor of dedicated craftsmen -and craftswomen.

Tomas Lipps,  
Editor

p.s. There is more me in this first issue than might seem seemly. Not only this EDITORIAL, but the PROFILE, and the BEFORE AND AFTER sections and the photos in the GALLERY and elsewhere, even a CARTOON -my apologies. This is not (only) due to vanity. This is because the only examples I could supply of these features, which I envision appearing regularly, were my own. Hopefully, readers will continually provide fresh materia for future issues.

NOTE: Gratitude is due to the Luck Stone Corporation of Virginia, the Cee-Jay Tool Company of Loveland, Colorado, the Colorado Flagstone Company of Masonville, Colorado and Rock and Co., Brighton Colorado whose generous support made the publication of this first issue possible. Your belief in the potential worth of STONEXUS Magazine and your support are both greatly appreciated.

## THE STONE FOUNDATION

Those who have visited the Stone Foundation web site, [www.stonefoundation.org](http://www.stonefoundation.org) may know something about the origins and goals of the Stone Foundation, but for the benefit of the many members and members-to-be who are not Internet-savvy, an explanation:

The STONE FOUNDATION came into being in 1986 with a stonemasonry workshop in northern New Mexico. An irresistible pun, the title was used to identify the group of friends and fellow stonemasons who comprised the team of instructors: George Gonzalez from California, Joe Kenlan from North Carolina, Tomas Lipps of New Mexico and Toru Oba from Virginia. Sixteen novices were introduced to the craft during the course of a two week "apprenticeship". Worthy projects, dry stone retaining walls and a spring house, were accomplished. As well as basic skills on which to build, the novices gained an understanding of the fundamentals and an appreciation of some of the finer points of structural stone work.

Five workshops followed over a ten year period - in New Mexico, California, North Carolina and Mallorca, Spain. The success of these workshops and the camaraderie experienced by the participants led to the concept of a symposium of stonemasons.

There is an entity known as ABANA, the Artist/Blacksmith Association of North America. It was launched at a symposium of metalworkers - artisans and sculptors - which took place at Fire Mountain, GA in 1976. Subsequently it has evolved into an international organization with a membership of more than 4,500 and a quarterly publication, The Anvil's Ring which serves to connect and inform those involved with metal work.

Obviously something similar would benefit the craft of stone work and its adherents. An event was envisioned during which fellow stone masons (and others in related fields) from all over the country will have the opportunity to meet, to socialize and to discuss the craft; an event that would engender a structured, nation-wide organization [with international associations] which will serve to connect and inform an extensive membership - the modern version of a medieval craft guild with a periodical publication, a directory of professional practitioners, educational resources, an on-line forum, information clearing-house, and book shop, subsequent gatherings and eventually, perhaps, a physical center.

This vision remained a vision for years until late in 1999 when, energized perhaps by the contemporaneous millennial zeal, the initiative was finally taken to realize it.

STONE WORK SYMPOSIUM 2000 was planned and publicized and took place in November last year. More than seventy enthusiastic practitioners, advocates and aficionados of the craft convened and communed in Santa Fe New Mexico and THE STONE FOUNDATION was launched.

Now (in July 2001) THE STONE FOUNDATION numbers 130+ members in 23 states and 6 countries - a long way from 4,500, but a good start. The core membership are stonemasons but anyone involved with or interested in stone, stonework and stone art is invited to join our society. And we ARE a society, a wide spread community unified by our mutual interest in stone and the articulation of it.

THE STONE FOUNDATION is a registered corporation in the state of New Mexico. Its products are Education, Information and Communication. Non-profit, 501(c3), status has been applied for.

Tomas Lipps,

Founder/Director

[Back to Table of Contents](#)  
[Stone Foundation Home Page](#)