

## from the editor

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*Friends and fellow Lithophiles, greetings.*

*Here it is—STONEXUS IV, the latest installment in this continuing compendium of stone lore. I hope you enjoy it; I've enjoyed putting it together; editing is a different craft than stonework, but related—selecting shaping and composing stone stuff (and, in the wide variety of material assembled, I notice that it's consistent with my tendency to use a wide variety of stone types in the walls I build*

*STONEXUS continues to morph. For one thing, you may notice some stylistic experimentation with different fonts and layouts, and . . .*

*T & T is now tips and techniques (tips and tidbits, where did that come from?) and will vary in length accordingly to what is sent in, and . . .*

*There are two new features that should add interest to the magazine:*

*STONEMASONRY IN RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE, a series of articles exploring that subject by a succession of notable design professionals and craftspeople; and...*

*I. M. H. O. (in my humble opinion), an Op-Ed column in which guest columnists are invited to expound on issues important to them. I've initiated that with an opinionated rant of my own.*

*AND, we got MAIL! The hope was always that STONEXUS would be a forum of sorts, and it may well become one; the surge of letters was most welcome. This kind of dialogue will be better served if STONEXUS was produced quarterly. Fewer pages, appearing more often? What do you think?*

*Again, much of the material in this issue was written by –or suggested by- member/subscribers. Thanks are due, in no particular order, to RICHARD SAMMONS, who wrote the first Stonework in Residential Architecture article (Richard is an architect who strives to incorporate structural, load-bearing masonry into the buildings he designs, an admirable ambition); to IAN CRAMB, the venerable old master stonemason who contributed his personal account of his first major commission; to BOB the Canadian WALLER for providing the poem about the old dry stone waller;; to ALAN COUNIHAN, a friend from the past that I recently encountered out there in cyberspace, no surprise that his lithical path continued to evolve –as described in "in Stone, a Life;" to VITO HEMPHILL, the fellow who, years ago, saved me acres of back-ache by telling me about that little exercise for the sacroiliac that is to be found in the T & T section; to MILES CHAFEE for passing along the issue of Aramco World Magazine from whence came the interesting article about the ancient Roman porphyry quarries in southern Egypt; to JULIET GOLDEN for sharing the photographs she took on her travels with her stonemason companion, TADEK through a province of Poland remarkable for its stonework, to JAMES CRAWFORD, for finally yielding to my entreaties to write about his escapade in Sardinia; to JIM UNDERWOOD for sending me the article, "The First Stone." Thanks, too, to all those who contributed Photos to the Editor — there were too many to print. Keep 'em coming; if you want to be sure they come back, include a self-addressed envelope.*

*Finally I must say that I'm gratified, and encouraged, by the appreciation expressed by many of you for the eclectic mix of material that finds its way into the magazine, OUR magazine. Now, excuse me, I've got to get to work on STONEXUS #5.*



a boy and his rock

*Thomas*