

# The Stone Carvers Master Craftsman of Washington National Cathedral

*Kmarjorie Hunt*

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**Kmarjorie Hunt : The Stone Carvers Master Craftsman of Washington National Cathedral** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stone Carvers Master Craftsman of Washington National Cathedral:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent insight into the life and culture of stone carversBy David ArbogastThis an excellent window into the life and culture of the Italian stonemasons who carved the limestone details of the Episcopal Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, commonly known as the National Cathedral, in Washington, D.C. Written in the final days prior to the completion of the building, this book provides insight into this particular aspect of the construction and its craftsmen.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Book is even better than the movieBy grasshopper4This book was written over a decade after Hunt's research on stone carving formed the basis for an academy award-winning film. The film is entitled "Stone Carvers," and it's an excellent starting point to learn about the carvers. Watching the movie and then reading this book provides a great way of learning about this inspiring traditional art. Hunt gives us a good history of two carvers' lives and provides us with a great overview of the European apprenticeship system within which they learned their art. She then writes a vivid description of the salient aspects of the process of carving, illustrating her key points with beautifully presented photographs. The book builds up to a delightful chapter on the stories that are literally set in the cathedral's stone. Hunt documents, for example, stories such as a description of an argument between the master carver and one of the carvers which resulted in a very clever gargoyle-caricature of the master carver. This story is but one of many that are

represented in numerous carvings, and visitors to the cathedral will greatly enjoy looking for the numerous in-jokes and clever stone figures that are discussed in Hunt's fine writing. Hunt closes her book with a fascinating discussion of the artistry as she uses relevant points within folklore scholarship to interpret the cultural expressivity within the workers' community. This focus makes the work an especially significant contribution to the historical record because the crafting of intricate stonework in cathedrals is likely to become a lost art and this type of workplace community of stone carvers will be remembered only in the stories of delightful carvers such as those depicted in Hunt's book. 13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. hard beauty By rbarrett@superior.net A really handsome volume that wonderfully illustrates this fine art. After visiting the National Cathedral (I was there for the dedication of the tympanum over the main door) and being captivated by the work of the carvers, this superb survey of monumental work brings it all to life again.