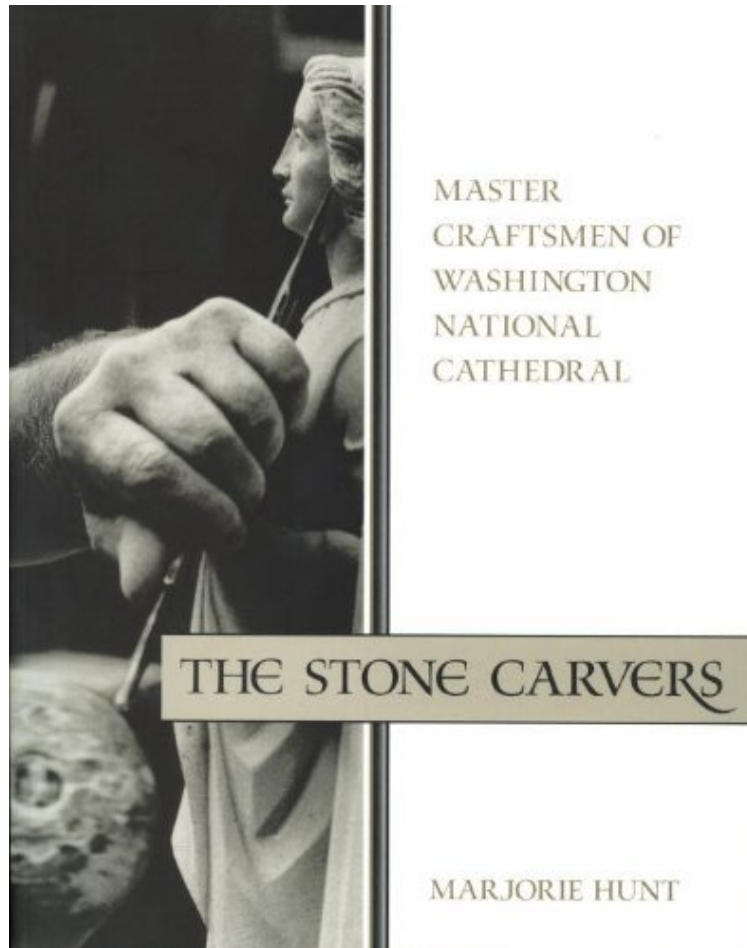


(Download ebook) The Stone Carvers: Master Craftsmen of Washington National Cathedral

The Stone Carvers: Master Craftsmen of Washington National Cathedral

Marjorie Hunt

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2399474 in Books Smithsonian Books 2007-08-01 2007-09-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x .60 x 7.80l, 1.62 #File Name: 1588342476208 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Marjorie Hunt : The Stone Carvers: Master Craftsmen 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 Craftsmen 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 beautyBy rbarrett@superior.netA 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.

Marjorie Hunt presents the lives and careers of two Italian American master stone carvers, Roger Morigi and Vincent Palumbo, who have spent decades creating the sculptural works, such as gargoyles, grotesques, capitals, pinnacles, saints, and angels that embellish Washington National Cathedral. Exploring the carvers' underlying aesthetic attitudes, Hunt reveals the spirit of creativity and mastery that infuses their work. The book records the stone-carving process, highlighting the carvers' complex body of technical knowledge, their opinions of various stones, their preferred tools for different stages of carving, and their techniques for achieving effects of light and shadow.

A pleasure to read, as much a meditation on living life as it is on cutting stone. Washington Times About the Author Marjorie Hunt is a folklorist with the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and is the coproducer and codirector of *The Stone Carvers*, an Academy Award-winning documentary about the stone carvers in this book. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. "You cut and cut and all of a sudden you see something grow. The more you work, the better it comes out. You feel good inside. You work, it gets brilliant, you see it move. I don't know, it fills you with some kind of emotion---such a sense of satisfaction." -Roger Morigi The carvers' beautifully crafted works of art in stone are visible signs of their pleasure in work and their delight in daily skill. Their carvings are not imposed forms, divorced from their makers and context; rather they are intimately connected to human emotion and intellect. Imbued with personal meaning and associations, they embody both the "freedom of the artist's spirit and the mastery of the artist's hands." It is this intimate connection to their art that Roger and Vincent have valued most about their work. Through craftsmanship they have had control over the creative process, and thus the aesthetic possibilities of an object have resided completely in their hands. Much has depended on their workmanship and skill: their deep understanding of raw materials and tools, their mastery of technique, and their creativity and care. The final product has been the result not only of their special skills and abilities but also of their attitudes and intentions---their will to excellence.