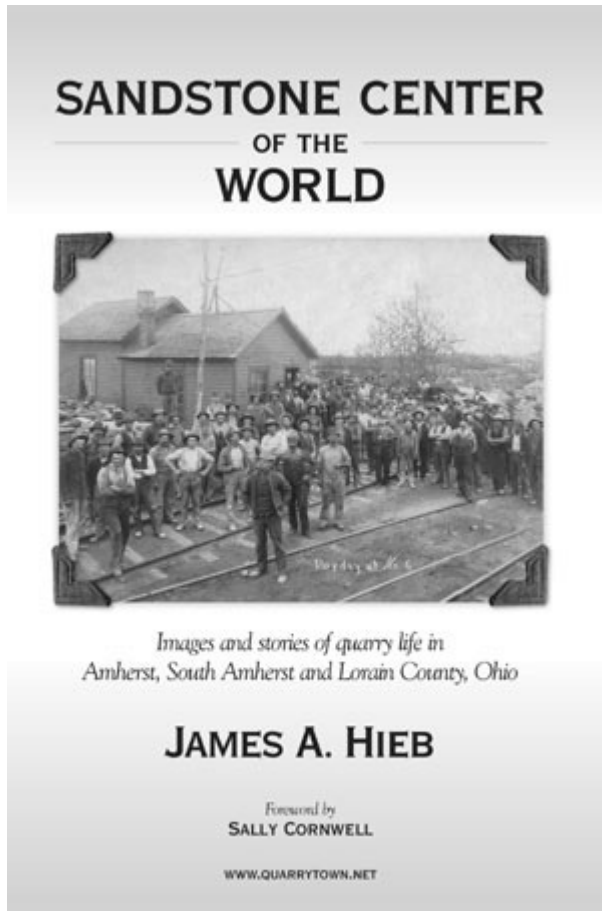




(from the July 2007 Issue)

MIA Staffer Authors Book About Amherst (Ohio) Sandstone Quarries



Marble Institute of America staff member James Hieb has authored a book about the sandstone quarries of Lorain County, Ohio. This region, known as the “Sandstone Center of the World,” has quarry beginnings in the early 1800s. During the height of its hey-day, several dozen quarries were active with over 2,000 individuals employed. At one point, Bob Hope’s father worked at the quarries as a stonemason and master carver.

The book entitled, “Sandstone Center of the World: Images & Stories of Quarry Life in Amherst, South Amherst & Lorain County” will debut in June. It chronicles 160 years of a quarry industry that was the largest of its kind in the world. Sandstone from the Amherst area has, and continues to be used in building projects around the United States and Canada. This book celebrates the deep sandstone heritage of the region, features dozens of photographs of quarry life, and highlights the continuing quarry operations of the Cleveland Quarries Company.

“Many families in northeast Ohio have a quarry story to tell and the stories I have heard the past 15 years

large role in the creation of this book,” stated author James Hieb. Stories told by Foyster Matlock, grandf Hieb’s wife Christa, are featured in the book’s introduction. Matlock spent 30 years at the Cleveland Quar at 93 years of age is one of the oldest living retired quarry workers.

The book forward was written by Amherst quarry enthusiast Sally Cornwell. She wrote, “Today, one can into the depths of these (Amherst) quarries without a feeling of awe and wonder. . . .If the wind is just right listen intently, you may hear the sounds of past generations extracting something beautiful from the earth master carvers transforming sandstone into works of art.”

Hieb also created a website, <http://www.quarrytown.net> www.quarrytown.net, to post pictures celebrating quarries of Lorain County.

For more information or to order a copy of this 124 page book, go online to "<http://www.quarrytown.net>' www.quarrytown.net.

About the Author

James Hieb received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of South Dakota (Vermillion, South Dakota) and a Masters Degree from Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio). He moved to Lorain County in 1991 and now serves as special projects director for the Marble Institute of America, the leading association serving the natural stone industry. Hieb is also an adjunct faculty member at Lorain County Community College. He resides in South Amherst, Ohio, with his wife Christa and two sons, Kyle and C

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