

## Heritage Stones of the World Introduction to the New Series

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# SPECIAL ISSUE

## Heritage Stones of the World: Introduction to the New Series

Heritage stones are those stones that have special significance to human culture, especially in the construction of historical buildings and monuments. The mandate of the Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) of the International Union of the Geological Sciences is to draw attention to such stones, for many are no longer extracted but their historical quarries are linked to regional culture and local society, and should be preserved for conservation and restoration. The objectives of the HSTG are:

- To facilitate formal designation of natural stones that have achieved widespread recognition in human culture (i.e. heritage stones).
- To create the 'Global Heritage Stone Resource' (GHSR) and Global Heritage Stone Province (GHSP) as internationally recognized heritage stone designations.
- To promote the adoption and use of heritage stone designation by international and national authorities.

The intent of recognizing a GHSR or GHSP arises from the value of:

- Promoting increased community, national and international awareness of natural stone and its widespread utilization in human culture.
- Gaining additional professional recognition for, and understanding of, natural stone amongst professional workers, primarily in geology, engineering, architecture, archaeology and stone/building conservation.
- Highlighting the significant positive attributes of natural stone in terms of sustainability and regional economic development.
- Safeguarding and protecting heritage stone resources from subsequent sterilization by alternative human endeavour.
- Raising the profile of many natural stone materials to greater prominence through researching GHSR and GHSP citations.
- Encouraging proper management of well-known existing natural stone extraction operations in order to ensure future availability and utilization.



Carrara Marble quarries, Tuscany, Italy. Photo credit: D. Pereira.

- Offering a means or mechanism, operating on a worldwide basis, to formalize selected characteristics of natural stone material, for professional purposes and otherwise, in an internationally accepted context.
- Enhancing international co-operation in the research and utilization of natural stone resources.

This, then, is a special issue of *Geoscience Canada* dedicated to heritage stones from the world, and our objective is to spread awareness of the architectural heritage and the variety

of natural stones that have been utilized. It comprises papers mostly arising from a session on heritage stone during the *General Assembly of European Geosciences Union*, held in Vienna in April 2015, supplemented with additional contributions from members of the task group. The volume is introduced by the discussion on the need of using original stones in repairing and maintenance of historical buildings and structures, explaining the concept of Global Heritage Stone Resource that will be applied in the following papers on natural stones from Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Brazil and Egypt. This issue also complements two recently published collections on heritage stones: a special publication of the Geological Society of London entitled “*Global Heritage Stone: Towards international recognition of building and ornamental stones*” and the special issue in Episodes, “*Global Heritage Stone Resource: an update.*” It is our hope that this publication in *Geoscience Canada* will be a further step in appreciating heritage stones and will trigger the contribution of future papers on heritage stones from North America and elsewhere.

We greatly appreciate the work of the reviewers, as well as IUGS and IGCP 637 support for the on-going work of the Heritage Stone Task Group. This issue is dedicated to the memory of Anders Wikström (1937–2015), who was a dedicated member of the task group and enthusiast of heritage building stones.

#### Dolores Perelra and Brian R. Pratt, Guest Editors

#### In Memory of Anders Wikström (1937–2015)



Anders Wikström was born in 1937. He studied at Uppsala University, in Sweden, graduating in Mathematics, Chemistry and Geology in 1961 and obtaining his Doctoral degree in 1968 in Mineralogy and Petrology with a thesis dealing with retrograde reactions in eclogites. Between 1968 and 2000 Anders was employed as a state geologist and senior state geologist at the Geological Survey of Sweden. Anders

was very active in the study of granites and metamorphic rocks from Sweden. During the last years he became involved with the Heritage Stone Task Group with the purpose of bringing to light very important natural stones from Sweden that had been used in construction for centuries, but for which little information was available. He authored two papers on this subject, one on the serpentine marble from Kolmården and another one on the Dala porphyries from Älvdalen. Both papers were published in June 2015 and they were very much appreciated by museums from Sweden and Russia, which have pieces made from these stones, and requested scientific information on them. Anders helped to accomplish this important part of disseminating science for the scientific community but also for the general public. He was very active in writing and discussing science until he was diagnosed with ALS this past summer. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November he passed away. We have lost a colleague and a friend.



Portrait of Ms. Shaeffer, by artist Mateo Hernández. Museum of Mateo Hernández, Béjar, Spain. Red Granite from Aswan, Egypt. Sculpture size: 55x30x30 cm. Photo credit: D. Pereira.