

WRITING IN STONE AND TEXTILES

BY C.W. LATTIN

An opening reception will take place in the Cobblestone Museum for an exhibit entitled "Writings in Stone and Textiles" at 6 p.m. June 1.

This collaborative project under the direction of Christine Zinni chronicles the migration of Italian stonecutters and their families from central Italy to Western New York to work in the Medina Sandstone quarries.

Finding work, like building roads, and constructing important civic, religious and private structures in cities like Rochester, Albany and Buffalo, itinerant stonecutters from Abruzzo helped create much of the distinctive stone architecture that we enjoy today.

Traveling from Italy to America during the Diaspora of the last century, the stonecutters and their families carried on traditions passed down over the centuries.

By focusing on the links between these landscapes and memory, the exhibit becomes a tale of two countries.

Combining archival photographs of Medina sandstone quarries, pictures from the private collections of families and historical societies in New York state and Italy, and photos of vernacular architecture in Rochester and Abruzzo, the exhibit will also feature artifacts from central Italy — textile art and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ceramics — as well as stonecutters' tools.

A video documentary titled "The Road From Alfedena," based on the oral histories of descendants of stonecutters in Western New York and Italy, will be shown as well.

Once a booming center of trade in Medina sandstone, Albion was where many of the Alfedena stonecutters settled before moving on to Rochester, Detroit and parts of Pennsylvania.

Our photo shows detailed work at St. Rocco's Church,

Hulberton which was created by Alfedena stonecutters in 1906.

Following the 6 to 8 p.m. opening reception, the exhibit will be open to the public during regular museum hours, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays from June 23 to July 20.

The Cobblestone Museum is located on routes 104 and 98 in Childs.

This exhibit located in the basement of the Cobblestone Church is free.