

Rutland Historical Society Newsletter
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From Quarry to Gallery: The National Gallery of Art

This issue, written by Nancy Hunter Kennedy, former librarian and research assistant at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C., discusses the history of the marble columns surrounding the rotunda of Washington's National Gallery of Art, from the selection of the marble, through fabrication, to their installation at the gallery. It includes quotations from O.R. Eggers, the architect from the New York City firm, John Russell Pope; Claude I. Hunter, chief marble expert from Vermont Marble Company; and James Stuart, construction engineer representing the National Gallery and the Mellon Trustees. The men traveled through Italy visiting various quarries and searching for a fabrication site. Hunter persuaded the team that Vermont Marble Company could manage production most efficiently. The remainder of the issue discusses the details of the contract, shipping arrangements, inspection, production, and delivery of the columns to Washington.