

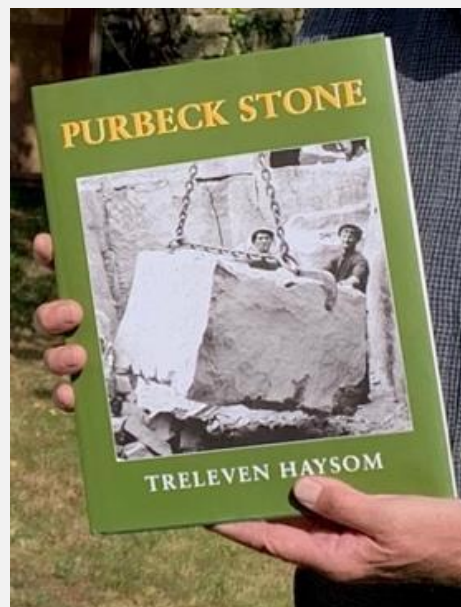
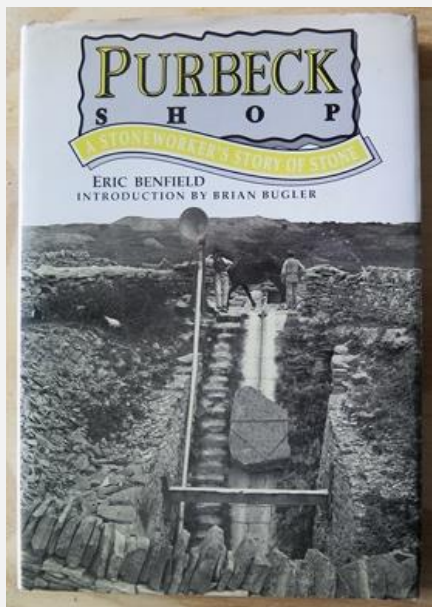
Purbeck's Stone Industry books.

Two books are dedicated to the subject of Purbeck Stone, published eighty years apart, written by life-long stoneworkers whose knowledge of the subject has come from their antecedents and gained from their personal experiences working in the industry.

In 1940 Eric Benfield's *Purbeck Shop* and last year Treleven Haysom's definitive *Purbeck Stone* which explores the trail of the industry's past. Drawing on existing records, the author has scrutinized the work located around the country, identifying its provenance whilst investigating the archaeological remains in the redundant quarries. As well as explaining the complicated geology and the characteristics of the different limestone beds named by the men who first quarried them.

In describing Purbeck's Marble trade throughout the 12th-14th centuries and the Stone trade that followed Trev explains how cliff stone was extracted along the four and a half mile stretch of coast at the edge of the plateau, and precariously lowered into boats by gibbet and derricks. How shafts were sunk in the Inland Stone Quarries where freestone was dug in narrow, underground candlelit 'lanes' referred to by the quarrymen as 'quarrs'. And the masons' skills, considering how much of their work was completed in Purbeck before being transported out.

Purbeck Stone is described as 'the definitive account of a stone' whilst drawing on all his experience, gathering the evidence from the earliest Purbeck marble workings and the Stone Industry which evolved after the Norman Conquest and thrived periodically through to the 1950's until traditional methods, used by his father, gave way to machinery.



Purbeck Shop, A Stone Worker's Story of Stone by Eric Benfield. First published in 1940 and again in 1990 by Eric's grandson Brian Bugler.

Purbeck Stone by Treleven Haysom. Published in 2020 by The Dovecote Press.