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Hampton Dunn

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INTERESTING ‘SERMONS IN STONES’ FORM ROLLINS’ WALK

By HAMPTON DUNN

WINTERPARK - The late Hamilton Holt, for many years president of Rollins College here, had a definition for "immortal." It was: "To be immortal, one must found a republic, win a war, paint a Sistine Madonna, compose a Parsifal, write a Hamlet, fly over the poles, or preserve the human voice on wax."

The yardstick was used to determine who was "truly immortal" so that stepping stones from their homes could be used to create the unique "Walk of Fame" at beautiful Rollins College. Dr. Holt, after spending a summer in New England in the 1930's touring old homesteads, decided to build the walk on the campus using stones from each of the ancestral homes. But later he decided to collect stones only from homes of famous persons such as Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson. A heavy old millstone marks the beginning of the concrete trail, now consisting of over 800 stones of all colors and shapes engraved with "the names of those who have left their footprints on the sands of time."

Behind each stone, there's a story. the Mohammed stone was taken from Mecca from the sacred cave where the prophet saw his visions; the Confucious stone canic from the school house in China where the sage taught; Adm, Byrd presented his stone himself, having brought it part way by dog sled from the South Pole; the Woodrow Wilson stone is actually a front step of his Princeton, N. J. home; the Stephen Foster stone comes from a corner of the Old Kentucky Home. A recent stone added is from the Swedish summer home of Dag Hammarskjold. A stroll down the walk is a stroll through the pages of history.