

## THE COLUMN AT SELSLEY : AN 1851 SURVIVOR APPENDIX

Theo Stening

**Editor's Note:** In last year's *Journal* Theo Stening wrote an interesting article on the column at Selsley. As he said then he had not found as much information as he might have hoped or expected. Further researches have produced the following.

**Extract from:** *Hunt's Handbook to the Official Catalogues*, edited by Robert Hunt, Vol 1, 1851, page 19. (Metric equivalents have been added.)

The column is from the Cheesewring Granite Quarries, near Liskeard, which are the property of the Duke of Cornwall. Although there exists here a very extensive area of granite of the purest quality, it has not, until lately, been much worked, owing to the difficulties of transport. The proximity of a railroad, however, has now rendered this available, and is worked by a Company under a lease from the Duchy of Cornwall. It appears that 15,000 tons of the finest granite can be quarried annually, and the blocks are of unusually large size. The block from which the shaft of the column has been cut, weighed, when removed from the quarry, more than 400 tons; it measured 35 feet in length, and 4 feet 6 inches in width, containing 5,040 feet cube. The dimensions of this specimen as worked are: -

### Pedestal

<b>Base:</b>	4 ft. 2 in. (1.27 m.) square	2 ft. 2 in. (.66 m.) high
<b>Die:</b>	3 ft. 4 in. (1.02 m.) square	3 ft. 8 in. (1.12 m.) high
<b>Cap:</b>	4 ft. 4 in. (1.32 m.) square	11 inches (.26 m.) high

### Column

<b>Base:</b>	3 ft. 4 in. (1.02 m.) square	1 ft. 4 in. (.41 m.) high
<b>Shaft:</b>	2 ft. 8 in. (.81 m.) square	20 feet (6.1 m.) high
<b>Capital:</b>	3 ft. 8 in. (1.12 m.) square	1 ft. 4 in. (.41 m.) high
<b>Total Height:</b>	29 feet 5 inches (8.97 m.)	

### Footnote:

Based on these dimensions, and a density of granite within the range 2.4 - 2.7 tonnes per cubic metre, the total weight of the column can be calculated to be between 16.3 and 18.4 tonnes, of which the shaft itself weighs between 7.5 and 8.5 tonnes.