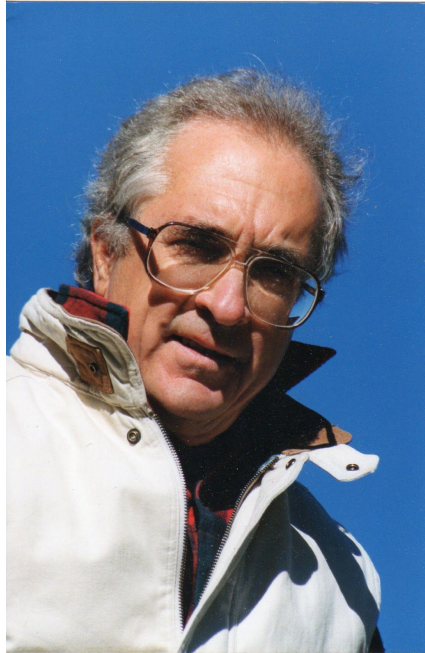


Short and long obituaries for Peter Barstow Rockwell (1936-2020).

---

*Short obituary*



Peter Barstow Rockwell died peacefully on February 6, 2020 in Danvers, MA. He passed away at the age of 83, spending his last weeks at peace visited by children and grandchildren.

Peter was born in New Rochelle, New York, on September 16, 1936 to Norman Percevel Rockwell and Mary Barstow Rockwell. He and his two older brothers, Jarvis and Thomas, grew up in Arlington, Vermont. In 1953, the family moved to Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Peter attended Haverford College. In his first year he was run through by a fencing foil in a match against Princeton. As an alternative to fencing, Peter decided to try sculpture, studying with [J. Wallace Kelly](#). He graduated with an English degree and enrolled in the [Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts](#) to study sculpture full time.

In 1961 Peter received a small fellowship to study carving in Carrara and he would cross the Atlantic for Italy on a Polish freighter with his wife Cynthia (Cinny) and 18-month old son, Geoffrey. A year later, Peter and family moved to Rome where he lived and worked most of his life and where Thomas, John and Mary were born. Peter attended [St. Paul's Within the Walls](#), serving multiple times as Senior Warden. His volunteer work also included serving on the Board of the [Keats-Shelly House](#), serving on the Board of [St. Stephen's School](#) and helping out at the [Non-Catholic Cemetery of Rome](#) (where he will be buried).

In Rome, Peter worked in different types of stone, in bronze, in wood, casting in resin and in clay, usually showing back in the USA to earn a living. He received numerous larger commissions like the [Ned Wolf Memorial](#) in Philadelphia and Boston College's [Tree of Life](#). A commission to carve gargoyles for the Washington Cathedral led to a lifetime love of monsters. His monsters now grace the small chapel in Giogalto, Tuscany, where he had an old farmhouse and studio. They can also be found in Plymouth, Michigan; Philadelphia, PA; Chioggia, Italy; and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He loved to carve large arrangements of stone monsters in public, inviting students to help him as he did at [Haverford in 1990](#).

Peter loved teaching art and art history. Over the years he taught at the [American Overseas School of Rome](#), then at [St. Stephen's School](#) and eventually at some of the college year abroad programs in the city. He also gave unique guided tours of sites, notably showing Rosalynn Carter the Roman Forum. He led tours across Europe; took his family on many camping trips to Greece, Turkey and Scotland; and examined sculpture in Pakistan and India.

Peter was an expert in ancient stone carving technique. For years he inspired conservators to read the tool marks on unfinished statues and he consulted on such notable works as Trajan's column, the Trevi Fountain, and Bernini's Angels. He lectured with the experience of someone who practiced the craft. Some of his knowledge, along with many of the thousands of photographs he took of tool marks, are gathered at the website [The Art of Making: Stoneworking in the Roman World](#). He also published a number of articles and books including *The Art of Stoneworking* (Cambridge, 1993) and, with Vidya Dehejia, *The Unfinished: The Stone Carvers at Work in the Indian Subcontinent* (Roli Books, 2016).

Peter was predeceased by his beloved wife [Cinny \(Cynthia Ide\) in 2013](#). He will be missed by his brothers Jarvis (Nova) and Thomas; his children Geoffrey (Margaret), Thomas (Rosemary), John (Lan) and Mary (Matthew); and by his grandchildren Peter, Alethea, Mateo and Alaska.

There will be a service for Peter at St. Paul's Within the Walls (of Rome) in May, 2020.

An out of date web site is available at <http://www.geoffreyrockwell.com/PRportfolio/index.html>