

FUNGI IN SCHOOLS

for
CHILDREN
TEACHERS
PARENTS

and other
interested parties



MAKING A CERAMIC MODEL

First of all plan your model by making drawings and paintings from as many different views as possible.

STAGE 1 THE BASE

This is made from a ball of clay opened by sticking a thumb into the middle and gradually thinned by pinching the clay between thumb and fingers. This is known as a 'pinch-bowl'. Put on one side to stiffen sufficiently to take the weight of the fungi.

STAGE 2 THE FUNGI

The cap is pinched in a similar manner to the base. The stem is made by rolling a piece of clay in your hands. The gills are next modelled on the underside of the cap. When cap and stems are stiffened sufficiently to stand without sagging join them together with slip (sloppy wet clay).

STAGE 3

Arrange and attach the fungi to the base with slip.

STAGE 4

Cut leaves, etc., from very thin sheets of clay using a paper pattern if necessary. Smooth any rough edges with a small piece of sponge or wet paint brush. Arrange and stick to base with slip.

STAGE 5

Leave model to dry thoroughly for at least two weeks in a warm dry atmosphere.

STAGE 6

Models can be painted directly onto the dry clay with underglaze colours. Other more complicated methods of painting and glazing are not given here as they have to be applied after the model has been fired in a kiln at a very high temperature.

These notes are based on a workshop given by Dorothy Wolfe on the Autumn Foray in 1987. Mrs Wolfe has kindly offered to answer letters from modellers with special problems. Her address is:- Mrs D E Wolfe NDD, ATD, 24 Newlands Avenue, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS26 9NU. A s.a.e. would be appreciated.

Materials (and catalogue) can be obtained by post from PotteryCrafts Ltd., Campbell Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 4ET. Your 'Yellow Pages' telephone book may also give local addresses under POTTERY MATERIAL SUPPLIERS.

Next time: Making Bread

Sheila M Francis