

# DACORUM AND CHILTERN POTTERS GUILD



MONTHLY BULLETIN : MAY 1983

## MAY MEETING

## RUTH BENTALL

Friday 27th

8.00 pm

Ruth Bentall, one of our Guild members has just returned from a trip to Mexico where she visited many Potters and their workshops. An illustrated talk about her trip will be given by Ruth at The Bossard Hall, Leighton Buzzard.

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The May Meeting with Gary Standige was very well attended, a write-up will be included in the next bulletin. Gary Standige and Jim Malone Have an exhibition of their recent work at the Amalgam Gallery at Barnes from Friday 13th May to 4th June, the Private View is on Thursday 12th May from 6.30 to 8.30 pm and Gary has extended his invitation to all members of the Guild who wish to attend.

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EXHIBITION OF CERAMICS AND PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKS BY PAMELA AND MICHAEL PUGSLEY at Gayton Library (Harrow) starting 16th May for one week. The exhibition is open during the Library opening times, for further information please phone 01 861 4582. The Ceramics include Terra Cotta Portraiture, Thrown decorated earthenware pottery and Egyptian Paste jewelry. The Photography shows a variety of printing methods in Monochrome and Colour. Many works are for sale.

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POTTERS OPEN HOUSE 21st May from 3pm - 9pm Arnold Bernhardt. 90 London Road, Shenley, Herts. Tel: Radlett 6925. Please ring beforehand as his house is difficult to find. Own workshop. Glazes of particular interest.

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POTTERS OPEN HOUSE 10th June all day Elsa Benattar. Windemere, 22 Millfield, Berkhamstead. Tel 4592. Raw glazing, Stoneware, collection of pots, including Bernard Leach

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FOR SALE Rhoneo 865 Duplicator, electrically driven £80.00 Please apply to Tony Plessner Tel: Kings Langley 64414 or Valerie Williams Tel: Stevenage 65233

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EXHIBITION - ANNUAL KENT POTTER'S EXHIBITION Friday 27th May to 3rd July in the Folkstone Arts Centre.

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EXHIBITION - ANNUAL DACORUM AND CHILTERN POTTERS EXHIBITION 4th July to 16th July at Ruislip Library (details are included in this bulletin) We hope that all members are busy on their pots for this exhibition, if any member has any other exhibits that could be hung on the walls eg. weavings tapestries etc. would they please contact Marigold Austin Tel: Hertford 50395.

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POTTERS OPEN DAY Many people who would like to attend this meeting are unable to do so because of the distance they have to travel there and back in one day, if any members are able and willing to put people up for the night please contact Sue Trotman Tel: Leighton Buzzard (0525) 370259. This may also include other meetings and would be very helpful to members of the Kent, South Wales and Midland Potters Guilds who often wish to visit us.



JUNE MEETING OF THE GUILD- RAKU FIRING Sunday 12th June at Pitstone Farm, Ivinghoe near Tring. Tim Andrews, who has now joined Trisha Holden (the wife of the late Andrew Holden) at South Tawton Pottery, will bring a fast fire raku kiln designed by Andrew Holden. Any member who has a raku piece biscuit fired may bring them to be fired. Stan Romer will also be firing the brick built kiln that is already there. The pot can be made of Raku clay or add 20 - 30% sand or coarse grog to a stoneware clay ( and for improved heat shock resistance 5 - 10% Talc). A reminder and further details of this meeting will be included in the next bulletin.

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#### REVIEW OF RECENT MEETINGS AND EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of Treasures of Ancient Nigeria at the Royal Academy - January 1983

by Pam James

Against a cold, black background (the heating had broken down and was causing the curtains some agitation around exhibits used to a hot climate) were displayed some of the most prized treasures of Nigeria. Bronze and stylised terracotta heads from the Nok Culture of around 500 BC to 700 AD were at the start of the exhibition.

Serene, naturalistic Ife heads of the 12th to 15th century conveyed a sense of timelessness.

There followed a large section of 15th century Yoruba terracottas. Ample room was given to admire some splendid, large Benin bronzes of a pair of leopards and a human messenger of the 16th century. The sophistication and technical skill of these Benin bronzes contrasted greatly with a stone AKwanshi ritualistic figure of the same period.

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#### BRIAN SHERWIN -A TALK ON ELECTRIC KILNS      February Meeting

For the D.I.Y enthusiasts, this was an evening to iron out your repair and fault problems. For the likes of Murrey Fieldhouse and Elsa Benattar who obviously knew what to expect, I, having had a hectic week at the office were staggered by "Are you with me", Brian's spec of delivery, speechwise. It took me all of ten minutes to tune up to his pace.

He spent a lot of time on kiln re-wiring and wire in particular, noted as follows. You can calculate the length of wire required if you know the resistance and gauge. The resistance value = gauge x length.

When replacing wires, work on a 50/50 basis. If two have gone in a bank of four it will probably work satisfactorily, perhaps three out of five.

As kiln ages, resistance increases. As temperature gets to its peak resistance increases dramatically. At 750 elements become oxidized. Watch for brown speckles in oxide coatings.

In using Kanthol Ai Elements, watch for deposits of pink dust on brickwork channels housing the wiring - it must be removed.

When tracing elements through the brickwork, ensure that the tail is lined up exactly with the holes otherwise the element coils will certainly jump out of their housings on heating.

Kiln brickwork, L.W. Brick (U.S. manufacture). They are more prone to mechanical damage but he prefers them to ceramic fibre. Supplied in boxes of 20 at £1.20 per brick. Buy several more than your requirement because they break easily.

On a question about ceramic fibre kilns, he quoted a slightly slanted story about the chap who, when firing his kiln, fires his stoneware on the inside and his earthenware on the outside.