



DACORUM AND  
CHILTERN  
POTTERS GUILD

BULLETIN

APRIL

1989

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 14th April at 8 pm at Northchurch Social Centre,  
Bell Lane, Northchurch, Berkhamsted.

RAY WALKER - Demonstration of making Earthenware Relief  
Tiles.

Ray Walker was trained in Three-dimensional Design and  
Ceramics and now teaches pottery full-time at Langley  
College of Further Education as well as pursuing his own  
work at home. He has always been more interested in the  
areas where painting and sculpture meet ceramics rather than  
domestic pottery. His interest in carving clay began  
through studying architectural reliefs and the sculpture of  
the Near East and India. He also paints in egg-tempera and  
recently has begun to combine this with the carved work.

He will be demonstrating his approach to carving into terra-  
cotta clay; also (if time) how ideas are carried through  
into sgraffito tiles.

Friday 12th May Rod Peirson - A journey through China.

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WEST FOREST POTTERS

Wednesday 19th April Sue Varley - Demonstration of  
agateware pinch pots.

Wednesday 17th May Ray Walker - Clay carving.

The West Forest Potters meet at 7.45 pm at Polehampton  
Junior School, Kibblewhite Crescent (from Old London Road),  
Via Penfields, Twyford.

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## NOTES ON THE WILLIAM DE MORGAN EXHIBITION AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT

(The Exhibition is on till June)

He was principal designer and brilliant kiln technician of a succession of tile and pottery workshops in London. His pottery, with its brilliantly coloured decoration, elaborately patterned, provides the ceramic counterpart to the textiles and wallpapers of William Morris. He was inspired by historic and Islamic sources, and was motivated as much by a desire to master forgotten craft techniques as he was by a need to solve design problems.

He started by designing stained glass for Morris' firm in 1860. During the firing of a panel of stained glass he observed that a metallic deposit was obtained, an effect similar to the lustre glazes of medieval Islamic pottery and one that he subsequently sought to achieve in earthenware tiles. He gave up glass for pottery, establishing his first factory in Chelsea in 1872. Two types of glazes were used; underglaze 'Persian' colours and overglaze lustres.

1900 was a period of technical and aesthetic triumph for De Morgan but he staggered from one financial disaster to another. One of his firings set the house on fire and another time he caused an explosion at the Ministry of Defence!

He developed neuritis and was forced to retire from pottery in 1907 but he then made his fortune by writing a best-selling novel!

For the duration of the exhibition his tilework in an extensive decorative scheme may be viewed at:-  
The Richmond Fellowship, 8 Addison Road, Kensington,  
on Tuesdays between 6 - 7 pm.

PAM TAMES

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### MASK-MAKING MATERIALS

Those members who attended Jed Hoile's demonstration of mask-making may be interested in the list of materials and suppliers which he sent in for circulation:-

#### CELASTIC

Used as the main fabric of the mask. (Also good for puppets and lightweight 3D models built round wire armatures).

### Celastic Suppliers

In single sheet form (each sheet yields approx 4-5 masks).

1) The Puppet Centre, Battersea Arts Centre,  
Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction,  
London SW11 5TF. Tel: 01-228 5335

Cost - £5.80 per sheet for 66 (Thinnest grade good for  
awkward and detailed features).

£6.80 for 77 (Thicker grade good for covering large  
areas and large masks).

2) For larger quantities if required. (ie 20-40 sheets)

Lee Chemicals, Newbridge Road,  
Glenparva, Leicester, LE2 9TD. Tel: 0533-787565

Please telephone for costs. This will be cheaper per  
sheet than The Puppet Centre's prices but involves a  
large order.

### ACETONE

Industrial acetone (suitable for brush cleaning) is  
available. Acetone from chemists will prove very expensive.  
Used for "softening" celastic to a malleable state for  
modelling (its chemical effect on the resins in the celastic  
makes bonding possible). USE RUBBER GLOVES FOR PROTECTION.  
ACETONE IS TOXIC - VENTILATE THE ROOM WELL.

### Suppliers

The Puppet Centre - address above.

Cost - £8.50 per 5 litre can (will enable you to make about  
10-15 masks).

Larger supplies from Strand Chemicals who are with:-  
Scott Bader Co Ltd, Wollaston, Wellingborough,  
Northants, NN9 7RL. Tel: 0933 663100 for costs.

### ALGINATE

Used to make very accurate face masks of real human faces.  
(Must be supported by an outer casing of plaster of paris  
bandage or mud-roc).

### Suppliers

Alec Tiranti, 27 Warren Street, London W1P 5DG.  
Tel: 01-636 8565

