Ceramic Design and Ornamentation

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CERAMIC DESIGN AND ORNAMENTATION

An Abstract
Presented to
Dr. Joel Moss
and the Faculty of the Graduate School
Fort Hays Kansas State College

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Art Education

by
Dick Fisher
January 1963
The purpose of this study was to execute experiments with various techniques in designing and ornamentation of ceramic ware.

The clay used for the ceramic problem was of stoneware and low fire body. Various metallic oxides were used as stains and slip, called engobe, to create designs and for ornamentations on the ware. A Jenkins Matt white glaze was used on the low fire ceramic pieces. K U #1 and Beth Horton glazes were used on the stone-ware pieces.

A variety of ornamentation techniques were used. The technique used the most was sgraffito, which is the scratching through of the outer layer of slip or glaze. The type of tool used for sgraffito may vary a great deal, depending upon the effect desired. This sgraffito technique may be used on greenware and bisque pieces with a wide variety of results being achieved. Other techniques used were slip painting, where the slip was applied free hand with a brush, and slip tracing, which was done by using a plastic or rubber bulb or syringe filled with slip or glaze. Forming textures in soft clay with a ceramic tool and by pressing ingredients that nature provides in the surface of a piece, offered many exciting ornamental possibilities that the writer hopes to explore later on in life. The use of the banding technique was very simple and put on free hand. The bands were applied by holding a brush load of slip or glaze against the ware while it was rotating on a turn-table. The writer found that by applying underglaze directly on
bisque ware and on top of glaze that very interesting effects developed from this technique.

The writer feels he has touched only briefly the possibilities of these techniques and feels there is much left to explore. Many of the experiments suggest numerous possibilities but an essential purpose of this work was to experiment with varied techniques, therefore certain limitations had to be adhered too.
Vase

stoneware

sgraffito ornamentation

h. 9 1/2 inches

1962
Covered Vase
stoneware
h. 12 inches
1962
Bottle

stoneware

red & black iron oxide ornamentation

h. 5 1/2 inches

1962
Vase
earthenware
sgraffito ornamentation
h. 18 1/2 inches
1962
Covered Vase
earthenware
banding ornamentation
h. 6 1/2 inches
1962
Bottle
stoneware
melted metal ornamentation
h. 8 inches
1962
Bowl
earthenware
underglaze & sgraffito ornamentation
w. 6 1/4 inches
1962

Vase
earthenware
sgraffito ornamentation
h. 18 1/2 inches
1962
Vase
stoneware
sgraffito ornamentation
h. 9 1/2 inches

Bottle
stoneware
underglaze ornamentation
h. 6 1/2 inches
Bottle
stoneware
banding & slip painting ornamentation
h. 9 1/2 inches
1962

Vase
stoneware
texture ornamentation
h. 4 1/2 inches
1962
Bottle
earthenware
sgraffito ornamentation
h. 4 inches

Covered Vase
stoneware
h. 12 inches
1962

Bottle
stoneware
finger painting ornamentation
h. 6 inches
1962
Bowl
stoneware
sgraffito ornamentation
w. 5 1/4 inches
1962

Bottle
earthenware
sgraffito ornamentation
h. 9 inches
1962

Bottle
stoneware
h. 5 inches
1962