

# Reviews

## Ceramics

Frances Hannah

*Bell & Hyman £8.95 cased £5.95 paper*

## Furniture

Penny Sparke

*Bell & Hyman £8.95 cased £5.95 paper*

Bell and Hyman's new Twentieth Century Design series is an ambitious project and, if the first two titles are indicative, offers a stimulating new resource for school libraries. The brief to authors is demanding — a historical analysis from early industrialisation to the present day, a profile of the industry, a comparative analysis, accounts of major designers and a thoroughgoing sociological analysis. The whole to be illustrated by carefully chosen pictures of key design developments.

Faced with such a brief and little more than 100 pages apiece the authors have inevitably responded idiosyncratically. But these idiosyncracies have led to fascinating books — with lively texts and excellent illustrations. Sparke's treatment of contemporary furniture — widely interpreted — is itself a piece of original design. Hannah's detached history of the ceramic industry is sensitively related to the present in an excellent concluding chapter on the state of the art.

Future titles are awaited with enthusiasm.

John Eggleston

## Ideas & Techniques for Fabric Design

Lynda Flower

*Art & Design Series, Longman, £9.95.*

This is a most interesting and comprehensive book, written with both the commercial student and the enthusiastic amateur in mind. The first part discusses art and design in relation to textiles and indicates where the student might find inspiration. Design, motif and pattern are distinguished and the rhythms and subtleties which are created by the use of different repeat systems are explored, as also is the problem of designing in a static form — i.e. on paper for use on a medium which

may be hung, gathered, pleated, or draped around the human form. Colour is discussed in its relation to different cultures, in its capacity to symbolise an era and its ability to establish mood. Colour can be used as camouflage, in playing down part of a design, and is itself subtly altered by the type of fabric on which it is printed.

The chapter on screen printing deals with all the processes from making a print table, to a finished print. Each stage is clearly explained with step by step directions and supporting illustrations. This and the chapter on dyeing have a comprehensive list of suppliers, which should prove indispensable to anyone working in this field.

The final chapters are on tie and dye, batik, starch resist and fabric painting and will appeal to the amateur, the artist working alone, as well as the commercial student. Not that this is in any way folksy. The use of modern technology, cameras, photocopiers, spray guns and air brushes are advocated throughout.

Every process is supported with excellent diagrams and photographs. There are no colour reproductions, but this is not a serious lack. There is no table of contents, but a good index and bibliography.

D. Kay

volumes recently published — two new in the Workshop Practice Series and two new editions maintain the high standard of clarity and direction which make them, with guidance, appropriate for readers of even fairly modest levels of literacy, and they actually have a place in the reference library of the CDT department. A strength of the books is that they scrupulously avoid any discussion of the design of the objects which the process may be used to create. Teachers and students are left free from any attempt to influence their outcomes, the books are strictly means to other peoples ends. The only regret is the general inconsistency of the illustrative content. Pictures are often grey, lacking in contrast and clarity. A number of diagrams are reproduced from other publications on a hazy background. Otherwise the verdict is generally favourable.

John Eggleston

## Saws & Sawing

Ian Bradley

*Argus Books £4.95*

## Model Engineer's Handbook (Workshop Practice Series No.10)

Tubal Cain

*Argus Books (2nd Ed) £6.50*

## Soldering and Brazing (Workshop Practice Series No.9)

Tubal Cain

*Argus Books £5.95*

## Woodworker Manual of Finishing and Polishing

Charles D. Cliffe

*Argus Books (2nd Ed) £2.50*

Argus Books is a prolific publisher in the field of modelling, workshop practice and related fields. The four