



Collar City Clay Guild

August Meeting: Terra Sigillata



The August Guild meeting was held on the 27th at River Street Pottery. After a brief business meeting, the program topic was Terra Sigillata presented by Barbara Reeley. Terra Sigillata is a very smooth, lustrous coating of clay which resembles a glaze and is virtually waterproof. The name means "sealed earth" and has been used to refer to the Classical Greek Attic black-figure and red-figure painted pottery. These days, Terra Sigillata is used to refer to an especially fine coating of clay applied to a ceramic piece.

As a group, we learned how to make Terra Sig and we also had the chance to try it on bone dry pots Barbara provided. Terra Sig creates a wonderful glossy finish when burnished on low temperature pots. We were able to try both white and red Terra Sigillata that Barbara generously provided. These pots will be fired at our next CCCG meeting: Polly's Pit Fire in October.

Here are the recipes for Terra Sigillata if you want to try it yourself.

Terra Sigillata #1
1 1/2 Cups Ball Clay (OM4)
1 1/2 Cups EPK
10 Cups Water
2 Tablespoons Sodium Silicate

Mix Ball Clay, EPK & Water in a blender. Add Sodium Silicate one drop at a time to the clay & water mixture. Transfer mixture to a glass jar, cover & let sit 4 days.

Arrange the jar so that its base stands above the level of the rims of two empty bowls. Be careful not to disturb the jar. Decant the water layer at the top of the settled liquid into one bowl.

Next, decant the actual Terra Sigillata (the middle layer) into the other bowl. Discard the bottom layer. Do not use the bottom layer as recycle clay because it has sodium silicate in it.

Terra Sigillata #2
8 1/2 Cups EPK
12 Cups Red Art
1/4 Cup Bentonite
2 Tablespoons Sodium Silicate
14 Cups Water

Mix first three ingredients and set aside. Add Sodium Silicate to the water and let it dissolve then add the dry ingredients to this solution. Let this mixture stand undisturbed for a minimum of 24 hours.

Once the solution settles into three layers decant the top layer and discard. The second layer is the actual Terra Sig and once decanted needs to be put into a jar with a lid. The third layer is always discarded.

General Tips for using Terra Sigillata:

- Throw red and/or white pots.
- Trim the pots and leave them until they are bone dry. Using 220x sandpaper, sand dry pots smooth
- Coat with baby oil, dry and wipe with a wet paper towel and let dry ~ then brush first coat of Terra Sig.

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER ISSUE
2007

Items Included:

- August Meeting
- CCCG Elections
- Empty Bowls update
- Items of Interest
- Summer CCCG Calendar



- When Sig is dry, burnish using either plastic bag, bone, stainless steel spoon river rocks, or other smooth implement.

Several coats of Terra Sigillata can be put on the pots. Burnish until you are pleased with the piece. Do not bisque fire above 1800 degrees. Barbara will usually bisque fire to cone 010.

Nominations & Membership Dues on 9/23

The CCCG nomination committee consisting of Fred Miller and Barbara Reeley presented the slate of officers for the upcoming Guild elections to be held at the end of September. Alternate nominations for Executive office will also be accepted at the September 23rd meeting.

As it stands currently, the following slate will be up for membership vote:

President: Paul Hogland
 Vice President: Barbara Reeley
 Treasurer: Harriet Hauser
 Secretary: Joan Griffin
 Activities Chair: Lee Glasheen
 Archivist: Barbara Costanza

Guild attendance is strongly suggested at our Annual business meeting. This meeting will decide the Executive committee as well as collect membership dues for the upcoming year. If you cannot attend this meeting please send your membership fee of \$25 to the Guild post office box listed at the end of this newsletter. Our membership directory will be updated in September and we do not want you dropped from the list.

Empty Bowls Update

We need your bowls! To date we have approximately 700 committed or received, about 500 short of our target. The Art Center of the Capitol Region has also designated 3 specific bowl nights for potters to produce for this event. River Street potters are still committed to Wednesday nights each week, and will begin to wash and pack bowls on September 19th.

Sixteen local restaurants have promised to donate soup for this event. That's an increase of five restaurants over last year. The committee also has received more cash sponsorships over last year, allowing this event to be even bigger and better!

Pre-sale tickets are now available from committee members including Barbara Reeley, Tim Bell, Stephanie Wostowkz, or Susan Nowogrodzki. Buying tickets ahead will allow guests to form a separate line, short cutting straight to the bowl room for faster processing.

This year may also feature live music and throwing demonstrations, along with a photo montage of bowls in process. Please contact Tim Bell (TBELL7@nycap.rr.com) or Barbara Reeley (claywomn@aol.com) if you have photos to submit or wish to demonstrate during the event.



Empty Bowls Flyers are now available for posting. (See attachment).

Help spread the word!

Items of Interest:

- **Indian Ladder Local Food Fest** now taking applications for crafters to exhibit at a September 16th show. "A celebration of food, drink, music, and the arts". Barbara Reeley has applications forms or please contact: www.indianladderfarms.com for further information.
- **Albany Holiday Studio Sale:** A wonderful holiday event featuring jewelry, ceramics, photography, artisan clothing, hand-dyed yarns and more! Talented local artists showing and selling their work at the elegant mansion of The Woman's Club at the corner of Albany's historic Washington Park. Free admission, entertainment, café and a raffle to benefit the programs of The Woman's Club. For more information, contact Liz Vigoda at 518-439-4457. <http://www.albanyholidaystudiosale.com/>
- **Preserving Ancient Pots:** The U.S. Department of Defense is new decks of playing cards to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. But rather than depicting Saddam Hussein as did decks issued at the beginning of the Iraq War, each card features an archaeological message. The cards are also part of a larger archaeology awareness program for soldiers to prevent unnecessary damage to ancient sites and to stem the illegal trade of artifacts in Iraq. The military has long recognized that educational playing cards are a good way to capitalize on the time soldiers spend waiting for orders. Source: <http://www.archaeology.org/0707/trenches/solitaire.html>
- **Pottery Field Trip to North Carolina:** Chuck Tiley is researching cost of 7-day bus excursion to visit pottery studios in and around Penland, NC. Preliminary figures based roughly on group of 20-25 people. Cost per person approximately \$500 including lodging. More details and information to follow.
- **CCCG Website:** Motion passed at August meeting to investigate website production for Guild. Discussion was had about a simple design which would feature Collar City Clay events and links to individual potters. Site would be maintained by CCCG not outside party. Fred Miller and Barbara Reeley working on preliminary information.



SHOW DISPLAY FOR SALE!

FROM MARION KURITZ

"In downsizing mode, I have carpeted Pro Panels (see back page of Crafts Report for photo, or I can email photo)

FOR SALE: six Knock Down panels, dark grey carpeting, original cost: \$750. selling for \$400. with amenities such as custom-made panel carriers, and lighting. Contact me at msturitz@worldnet.att.net to arrange appointment.

Thanks...and you all have a great year!"

Marion S. Kuritz
Handcrafted Collector Quality
Jewelry
518-640-9516



Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery go out to Jo Ann Axford who will be home for the next several months recuperating from recent surgery.

CCCG Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 23rd: Guild Meeting

2 p.m. at River Street Pottery

This is our annual election and general business meeting.

Please bring food to share and dues for 2008.

October 7th: Empty Bowls

12pm to 3pm at the Italian Community Center in Troy.

Please contact Barbara Reeley at Claywomn@aol.com for further information.

Presale tickets are now available.

October Guild Meeting

Pit Firing at Polly Hunt's Home

Sunday 10/28 at 10am

More information including date, times and directions to follow.

At the beginning of our monthly gatherings we will have a business meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be sent out one week prior to each meeting. Please send items for the agenda ten days prior to the meeting. All topics for discussion can be sent to: claywomn@aol.com



NEWSLETTER

COLLAR CITY CLAYGUILD
PO BOX 811
TROY, NY 12180-0811

E-mail: collarcityclayguild@hotmail.com