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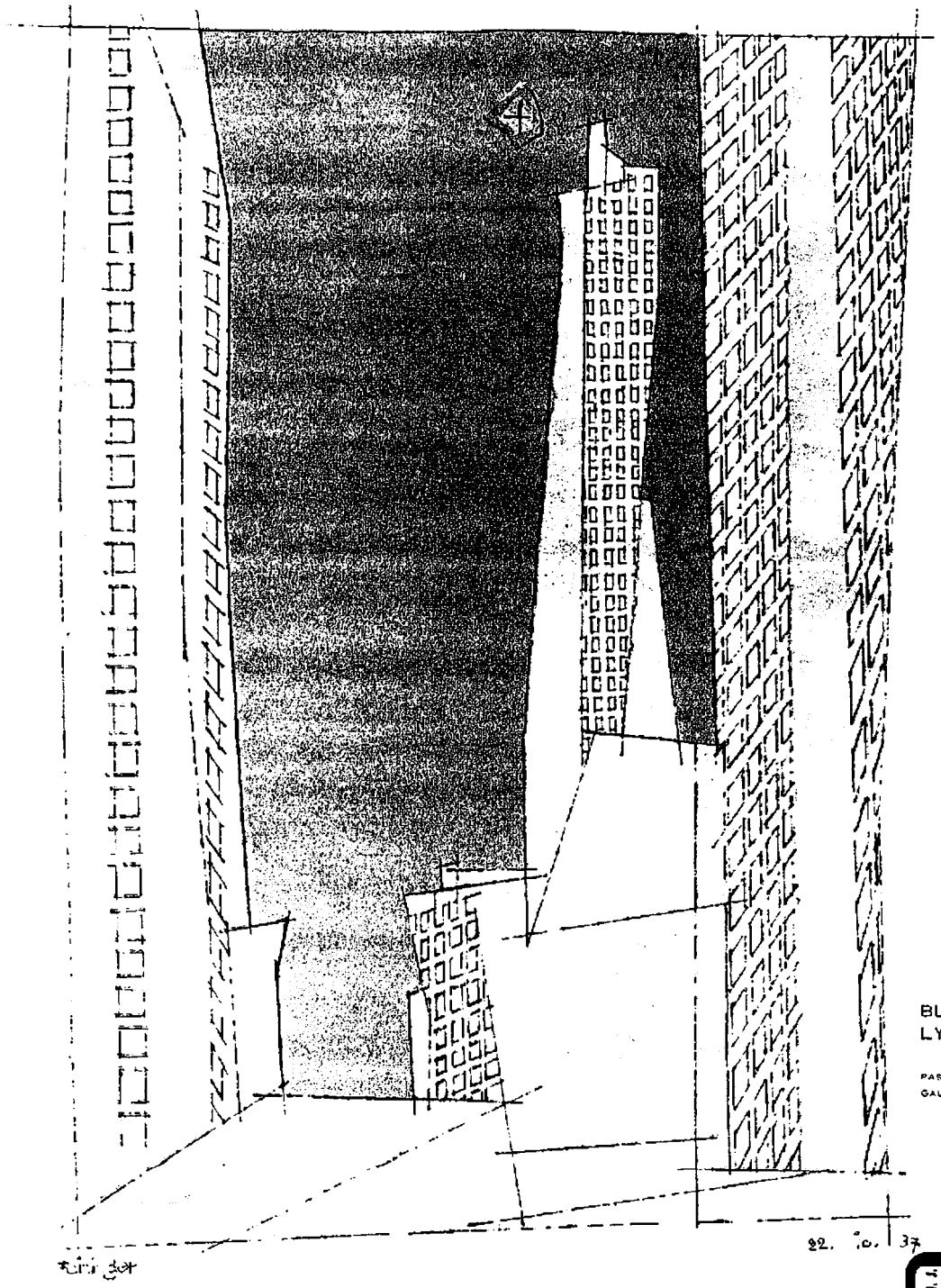
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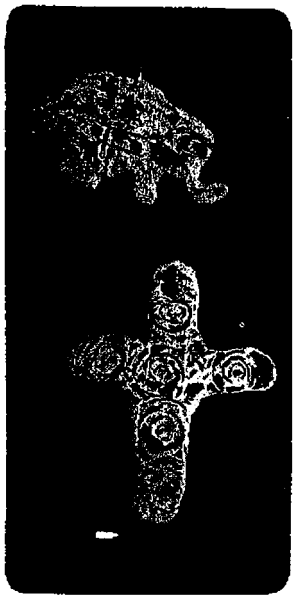
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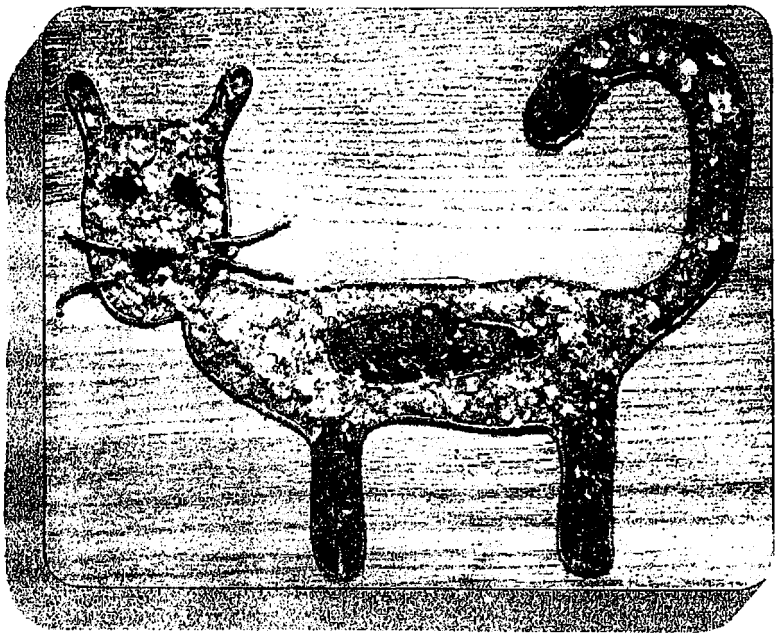
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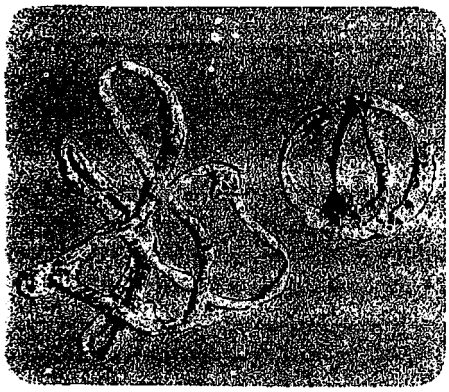
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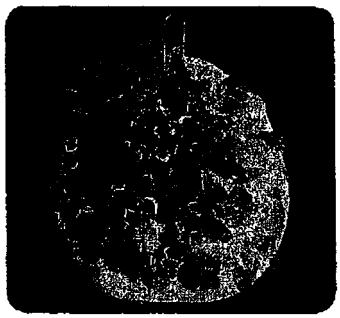














TREE DECORATIONS can be made by children in any grade. Begin by mixing asbestos cement and water, to the consistency of soft modeling clay. It can be flattened and cut into ornaments, or rolled and punched to form interesting objects. Insert tree hangers, and lay on wax paper to dry. Cut decorative lines on the forms as they dry. Later they may be enhanced by tempera paint and glitters.

GLASS MOSAICS in the form of animal figures are drawn on pieces of plywood. Then glue on heavy, round, gold or black braid to accent the outline. Now carefully coat the inside area with white resin glue and apply glass gems.

PLASTER PRETZELS and other intriguing tree ornaments may be made easily, just by dragging pieces of yarn, string, or rickrack through gravy-thick plaster. Then place them on wax paper and turn and twist into exciting shapes. After they have dried, decorations of sparkling glass chips can be applied with glue.

CHRISTMAS MADONNA and other symbolic figures are formed from scrap materials: a used photoflash bulb stuck in the end of a cone-shaped spool. A piece of cloth dipped into gravy-thick plaster is draped around the cone in a pleasing fashion. After drying, several coats of plaster are then applied to the form, each being allowed to dry thoroughly.

When the fabric has been covered, scrape out various areas to improve the shape.

ROUND TREE MEDALLIONS are "plaster cookies" piled high with glass gems. Plaster and water should be mixed to the consistency of thick gravy. Then it is spooned onto wax paper and allowed to dry. White resin glue is applied and glass gems sprinkled on freely.

STONE-CHIP CARDS are lots of fun to make and even a primary-ager can finish a lovely card in an art period. With wax crayons, the design is drawn directly on a card or cover of a folder. Then cement is applied to the design areas and filled in with stone chips.

GLASSMAS TREES (pictured on page 45) are for Mommy. Tree shapes are cut freehand from flattened clay, and a small doughnut of clay is smoothed on to hold a candle.

After the tree has become thoroughly dry, a few lines of green underglaze provide pine "needles," and a clear glaze is applied.

Now comes the part the children love—the ornaments! Bits of colored glass are arranged on their trees with loving care. Then into the kiln they go, and surprise! They melt to form round ornaments (a single-firing clay project).

For a candle (commercial ones may be used), heat paraffin with bits of red or green crayon in a tall coffee can set in a pan of water. Have each child dip a candlewick or doubled length of string on a paper clip, into the hot wax. Many dippings will be required, and you'll need to organize the children for this activity.