

172 whilst others bring to mind landscape, mountains and seashore. Dense woods seem present in other pieces, as exemplified by 'Large Tree Plaque' where the strong use of striped clay evokes images of tree trunks, bark or gnarled roots. One particularly delightful work, 'Forest Glade', suggests with great delicacy the plants, leaves and flowers found in many English woodlands and hedgerows.

Michael Bayley's ceramics are frequently mysterious, evocative and atmospheric and always visually stimulating – clearly the work of a highly creative craftsman who also has a sensitive and most unusual vision.

ASTOR/SPLIT ART EXHIBITION

PHILOMENA KENNEDY

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD, the more so for being rare, to hear good news of the former Yugoslavia. On the evening of 21 September I represented The Dover Society at a reception in the Maison Dieu Hall, jointly hosted by the Mayor and Charter Trustees and the Headmaster of Astor School. A most impressive show of art work by members of the Sixth Form and some former students of Astor School was on display.

The exhibition represented about half the number of almost 300 drawings, paintings and photographs which were shown in the summer in the former MUZEJ REVOLUCIJE (Museum of Revolution) in Dover's twin-city, Split.

In both Dover and Split the exhibition was organised and hung by John Horne, Head of Art and Design at Astor – John is a former pupil of the school who obtained his professional qualifications at Canterbury and Bristol – and the members of his department.

Chris Russell, the Headmaster of Astor and the Deputy Headteachers visited Split for the exhibition and associated events. Music, including opera, and poetry were performed in the Museum courtyard during the exhibition and attracted a large number of townspeople and also refugees, many of the latter Muslims from Bosnia.

Astor has forged firm links with staff and students of Grammar School 1 Gimnazija. Life drawing and painting (the study of the nude or clothed human figure directly from the model) underpins Advanced Level Art in the school and results in work which is both rigorous and exciting and is evidence of the students' grasp of drawing as the grammar of art.

I particularly noted, among much that impressed, Hayley Baker's striking self-portrait in oil-paste; and her life paintings; Joanne Cane's painting (inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt) used for the poster, her double self-portrait showing a very subtle feeling for colour and her vigorous oil-pastel of a nude; Nathan Moore's painting of machinery; Zowie Robinson's sensitive study of fish and apples and Andrew Brazier's boldly-organised nude in charcoal. I also admired John Horne's very nicely-observed pencil drawing of Hayley Baker.

It is hoped that a production of 'Oliver' will be performed in Split by members of both Astor School and Grammar School 1 Gimnazija. Another proposal is for the National Theatre of Croatia to perform in Dover early in 1994. The exhibition at the Town Hall was open to the public for a few days. I hope many people saw it.

POSTSCRIPT: It may be of interest that I was, some years ago, involved in an exchange of art work between Dover Grammar School for Girls and the school in Split. P.K.