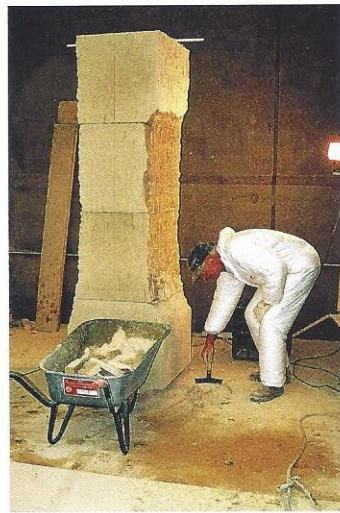
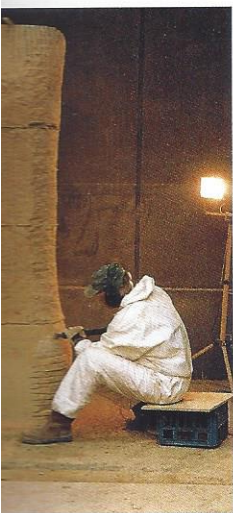
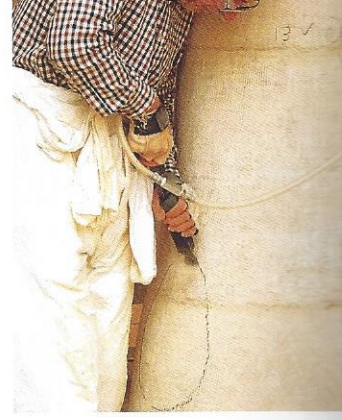
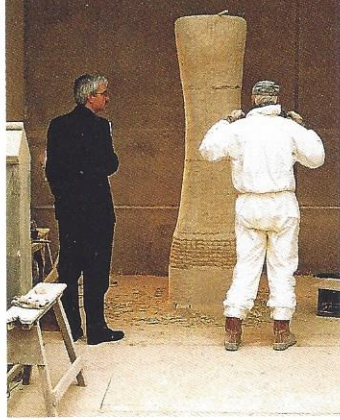
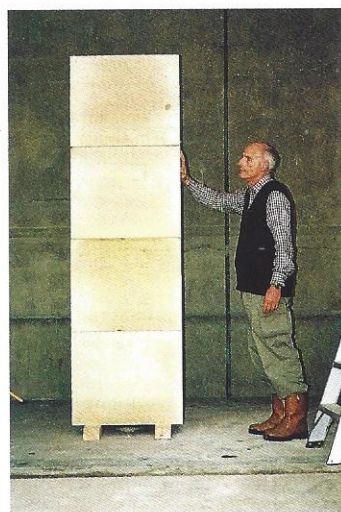




The Millennium Sculpture



Matthew Brown – Seventh Form

THE name of Colin Miller will be known to generations of Oakhamians to come, for he is the man behind the Oakham Millennium Sculpture. A sculptor of international renown, he has exhibited worldwide in places as diverse as New York and Helsinki. With a myriad of public commissions to his name he is no stranger to large-scale projects. He works in a wide range of materials such as bronze, marble, stone and wood, particularly olive, and has been sculpting since 1966. For ten years he lived and worked in Greece but now lives in Cley-next-the-Sea on the Norfolk coast.

Nature, Greek mythology and the phenomenon of Creation are his principal sources of inspiration. However, he likes to keep his ideas and themes varied with no limitations. The human figure plays an important part in his work, which moves freely from abstraction to representation. Talking about his work, he says, 'My aim throughout my work is to evoke a feeling of exploration and participation while visually and emotionally stimulating my audience. Above all, I want to share the pleasure which I experience when creating my sculpture.' In the 1970s he moved to the Cycladean island of Paros, where he worked in translucent, white Parian marble and olive wood and studied Cycladic sculpture. While living there, he designed and built his own house and studio. He also held one-man exhibitions in Athens which were televised on Greek national television. In mid-1984 he returned to England so that his children could attend British schools and since then he has spent much of his time working on larger sculptures. This he enjoys as he feels sculpture is



for everyone and has an important part to play in our environment.

The sculpture is in Clipsham stone, a stone with which Colin Miller is familiar. Sir David Davenport-Handley, once a Trustee of the School and owner of the Clipsham quarry, kindly donated the stone and the work was commissioned to mark the optimism and enthusiasm with which the School faces the challenges of the new millennium.

The abstract design, chosen by the Trustees, was one of three possible designs and, when mounted on its plinth, will stand about ten feet tall. On approaching it for the first time, you quickly begin to see Colin's thinking behind the design. The main 'valley' running up the middle of the sculpture draws your sight and so begins your eye's journey up the sculpture – the journey of the pupils and School as they face the future. The symbolism of moving forward and upward is strikingly apparent. Indeed, I could not help thinking of the School motto as I looked at the statue, seeing these thoughts echoed in its design – *'Et quasi cursores vitae lampada tradunt'* ('And like runners, we carry the torch onwards'). When it is unveiled in the Spring Term it will provide a fitting tribute to both the past 500 years of Oakham School and the next.

