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### Review of textbooks on wood artistic processing

**Abstract.** The article presents a review of the content of textbooks developed by V.F. Vaisero, an instructor at the Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving and master of Bogorodskoye wood carving. The textbooks are intended for students in grades I-III studying the academic disciplines "Performance skills" and "Skill improvement" within the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts with specialization in wood artistic processing.

**Keywords:** Russian university of traditional art crafts, artistic wood processing, performance skills, artistic carving, vocational education, three-dimensional sculptures, three-dimensional figures, story compositions.

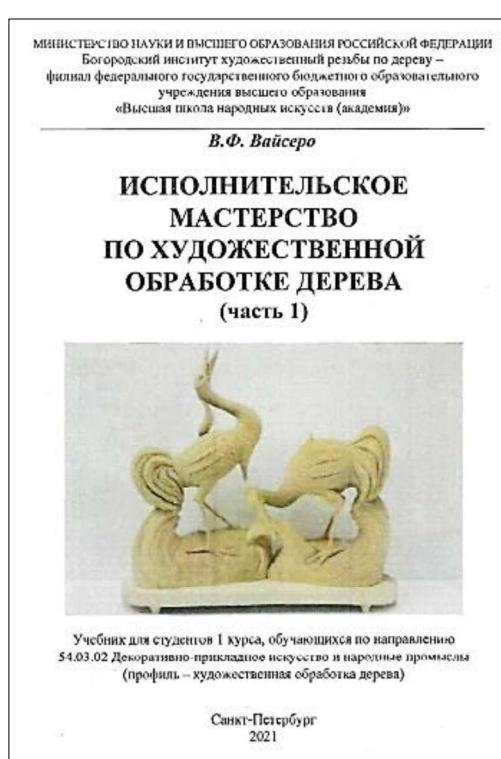


Fig. 1. V.F. Vaisero "Performing skills in wood artistic processing".

Part 1

Bogorodskoye woodcarving and technological stages of manufacturing artistic products, illustrating each stage with photographs during the process of creating artistic works to enhance clarity.

One of the talented educators who has been teaching techniques of Bogorodskoye woodcarving for many years at the Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving, which is a branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, is Valentina Fyodorovna Vaisero. Her students work in art studios, participate in exhibitions with their creative works, create new images of wooden sculpture, thus preserving and developing the traditions of Bogorodskoye woodcarving. Over the course of her long pedagogical career, teacher and master of Bogorodskoye woodcarving V.F. Vaisero has developed and published several textbooks on specialized subjects that are presented in this review.

The textbook "Performing skills in wood artistic processing" was prepared by V.F. Vaisero for first- and second-year students. It consists of two parts. In the textbook, the author describes the techniques of

The first part of the textbook "Performing skills in wood artistic processing" [2] (Fig. 1<sup>86</sup>) is addressed to first-year students.

In the first chapter, the author lists tools and equipment used for wood artistic processing, as well as describes properties of materials (wood) required for making Bogorodskoye products. In chapters two and three, the creation of volumetric bird sculptures is examined step-by-step. The author recommends drawing sketches of birds with characteristic movements before performing this task and studying the artwork of folk masters specializing in Bogorodskoye woodcarving. Processes of creating volumetric sculptures are demonstrated using examples from technologies for producing bird sculptures such as nightingale, owl, secretary bird (single-figure), "Morning in the forest", "Warbler" [2] (Fig. 2<sup>87</sup>) and "Cranes" (two-figure).

In the next chapter entitled "Creating a volumetric figure of an animal" [2] (Fig. 3<sup>88</sup>), the process of sculpting a bear is discussed. The author notes that conveying the plasticity of forms and movements of various animals varies greatly, which should be taken into account when creating such a sculpture.



Fig. 2. Kuz'min N.N., two-figure volumetric sculpture "Warbler"  
Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving



Fig. 3. Gorinov A.A., volumetric animal figure "Bear with basket"

<sup>86</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Performing skills in wood artistic processing. Part 1: A textbook for first-year students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero. – Saint Petersburg: HSFA, 2021. – 66 p.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907193-75-8. – Text: direct..

<sup>87</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Performing skills in wood artistic processing. Part 1: A textbook for first-year students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero. – Saint Petersburg: HSFA, 2021. – P. 34. – ISBN 978-5-907193-75-8. – Text: direct.

<sup>88</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Performing skills in wood artistic processing. Part 1: A textbook for first-year students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero. – Saint Petersburg: HSFA, 2021. – P. 53. – ISBN 978-5-907193-75-8. – Text: direct.

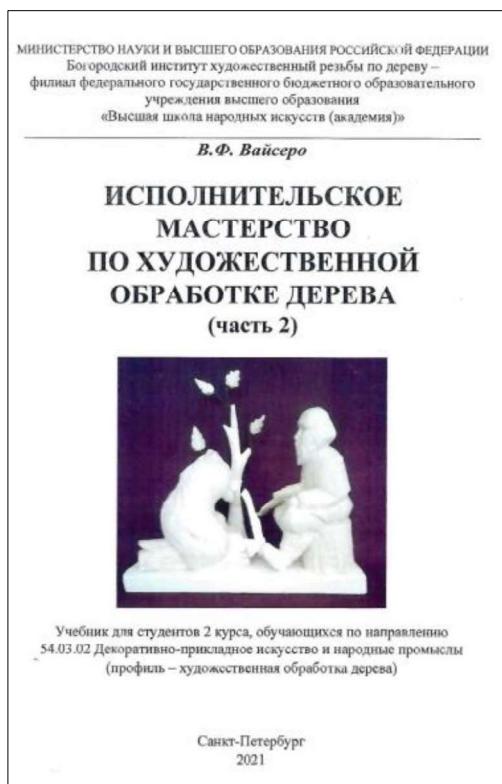


Fig. 4. V.F. Vaisero "Performing skills in wood artistic processing".  
Part 2

In the following chapter titled "Execution of a human volume figure", the author recommends using sketches of academic human drawings before creating a sculpture. This is crucial because the plasticity of the human body differs significantly from that of animals and understanding human anatomy through drawings helps better convey its unique shapes and movements in sculpture.

The final chapter is titled "Executing a plot composition of a human figure with an animal". In the description of making the sculpture, the author emphasizes the necessity of studying the composition sample before producing a template. This chapter provides step-by-step instructions for manufacturing compositions such as "Top and bottom", "Taking a break", "Bear's favor", "Obedient student" and "Birds are coming soon".

In these listed narrative compositions, Bogorodskoye woodcarvers depict the bear realistically while telling kind fantasy stories where the forest master assists humans.

In the appendix, there are placed: illustrations of works made by learners, safety instruction manual, dictionary of terms and list of recommended literature.

Bogorodskoye sculpture is renowned for its popular characters, among which the bear holds a special place.

The bear is one of the most popular characters in Bogorodskoye woodcarving. Over the years, Bogorodskoye craftsmen have created numerous images of the forest master. In past centuries, masters carved rather stylized bear sculptures. However, the generality of silhouettes, their angularity and incorrect proportions only added expressiveness to the toy, emphasizing either the wild behavior of the forest animal or, conversely, the docility of a tamed creature [1, p. 6]. Modern wood carvers continue to create new unique images of bears inspired by folk tales and folklore.

The second part of the textbook "Performing skills in wood art processing" [3] (Fig. 4<sup>89</sup>) is intended for second-year students. The study material of the second part begins with a chapter describing the technological stages of creating two-figure sculptures featuring images of

<sup>89</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Performing skills in wood art processing. Part 2. A textbook for second-year students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero. – Saint Petersburg : HSFA, 2021. – 90 p.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907193-76-5. – Text: direct.

The next textbook by V.F. Vaisero, "Improvement of skill in artistic wood carving" [4] (Fig. 5<sup>90</sup>), was also developed for students enrolled in the training program 54.03.02 Decorative and applied arts and folk crafts, profile: artistic wood carving. It is intended for third-year students as well as wood carvers with basic skills in artistic wood carving.



Fig. 5. V.F. Vaisero "Improvement of skill in artistic wood carving"

Bogorodskoye toys, created by students of the Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving under the guidance of V.F. Vaisero, are stored in the institute's methodological fund and serve as examples for students when designing sketches and author's projects (Fig. 6<sup>91</sup>). Photographs of the sculptures are published at the end of the textbook in the section "Works made by third and fourth year students of the Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving".

V.F. Vaisero, in all his published textbooks, advises students and wood carvers independently learning the techniques of Bogorodskoye woodcarving to study the history of this type of folk craft, copy the best samples created over many generations of carvers, in order to form traditional methods of Bogorodskoye woodcarving and improve practical skills.

The textbook starts with an introduction containing a list of practical skills that students must acquire during the study of the discipline "Skill improvement". In the chapter "Preparation for work", the author describes preparing a workspace for making wooden items. The next two chapters present instructional materials about creating single-figure sculptures: "Bison", "Elk at tree", "Mountain ram", "Deer", "White-maned horse".

The textbook concludes with a chapter titled "Creation of complex plot compositions", which discusses the technological steps involved in creating compositions consisting of two figures: "Aybolit", "Wind", "Healthy greetings". These compositions are more technologically complex than those described in previous chapters.

The best artistic compositions of

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<sup>90</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Improvement of skill in artistic wood carving: textbook for students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero; edited by Yu.E. Lapina; Bogorodskoye institute of artistic wood carving, Higher school of folk arts. – Saint Petersburg: HSFA, 2023. – 111 p. – ISBN 978-5-907569-35-5.

<sup>91</sup> Vaisero, V.F. Improvement of skill in artistic wood carving: textbook for students studying in the field of study 54.03.02 Decorative arts and folk crafts, specialization: wood artistic processing / V.F. Vaisero; edited by Yu.E. Lapina; Bogorodskoye institute of artistic wood carving, Higher school of folk arts. – Saint Petersburg: HSFA, 2023. – P. 110. – ISBN 978-5-907569-35-5.



Fig. 6. N.A. Mal'tsyn. Sculptural composition "Walks along Tverskaya street".  
Bogorodskoye institute for artistic wood carving

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Traditional compositions for Bogorodskoye toys, created several hundred years ago, have preserved their appearance until today, becoming symbols of the Bogorodskoye folk craft. The most famous Bogorodskoye toy is "Blacksmiths". A collection of the best samples of Bogorodskoye toys is kept in the State Russian museum. The collected works represent this peasant craft in its sequential development from the first half of the 19th century to the late 1970s [4]. The museum collection of Bogorodskoye toys, consisting of unusual and famous samples, is presented in the museum exhibition established at the Bogorodskoye factory of woodcarving arts.

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