

726 Duff Avenue
Ames, Iowa
June 20, 1946

Mrs. Vanderbilt Webb
American Craftsmen's
Educational Council, Inc.
485 Madison Avenue
New York, 22 N.Y.

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Dear Mrs. Webb:

Thank you so much for your letter enclosing my "fan" mail. I am truly sorry if I have caused you any embarrassment by failing to stress more strongly the dangers of working with lead. I am returning the letters as you requested.

May I confere with my good chemistry friends and send you an answer to the letters?

Indeed I did like the way you ran the article and I will be delighted to have extra copies, for the friend who promised to return my copy of Craft Horizons has failed to do so. I do not remember just how much was cut in publishing but as I look at the original article I feel that I did make it quite clear that there was danger in the use of lead. I did not go into all of the symptoms of lead poisoning but I did stress the precautions which should be followed in using it. It seems to me that is more constructive information.

Because there is danger involved in so much that a craftsman does he must always be alert. There is danger in the use and in the abuse of both materials and equipment used so that the craftsman must, from the beginning to the conclusion of his project, use the utmost intelligence at all times. He should recognize the dangers but fill his mind with the proper methods of dealing with these dangers. When using a sharp tool for wood carving he keeps in mind the fact that he must never place his hand or any part of his body in front of the tool but he does not think of the horrors which would be apparent if he were to cut off a finger or run the tool into his body. Every craftsman, or sportsman should recognize dangers and make them a part of his being but he must never let this recognition turn into fear for then he loses his efficiency and certainly his joy of preformance. The craftsman who uses power tools must follow the safety rules for their use; the hunter must know all of the rules of safety and abide by them at all times; and the horseman must respect his horse and the dangers involved but he must not have fear.

But I will do some research and try and answer the letters. I have never seen anyone who has suffered from lead poisoning and I am sure it is not a thing to take lightly. I did respect the concern my friends had for me and took their advice and have had no ill effects from my experiences in using lead.

Thank you again for writing me and I will appreciate the extra copies for I have had so many people asking for them.

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