

July 17, 1957

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
60 East 42nd Street
New York City 17

Dear Manfred:

I'm sorry to have kept you waiting for a reply to your letters of May 10 and June 24 about the APHA booklet on lead, but I've been under the gun at shorter range than your office, and the compulsion has been more than I could resist.

In principle, I think that your proposal to make use of the APHA booklet in the Monograph on Lead is a good one. I would certainly not object to any such measure that would give wider distribution to the information contained in it. I think the only question would be that of APHA authorities, who might feel that (1) this is undesirable in itself, or (2) that it would militate against the distribution of an APHA publication, thereby costing the APHA both prestige and a return on its printing costs. That is for them to decide, but I would encourage them to grant such consent.

This, however, is likely to be an academic point, since I cannot see how the job of revamping the booklet can possibly be done by the date you have set. This is a labor of love which I have to handle in a very dilute form in the midst of a heavy load of other work. I cannot see how I can get the "spade work" done by anyone else. All of my associates are busy with their own extra curricular tasks, and all of them are busy enough with the day's work of the Department to fill up their available time. I agreed to accept the chairmanship of the group that is to do this job, knowing full well that it would be much easier to do the job in toto than to act as the coordinator of the group and the principal editor of the material. I have hardly had time to think about the composition of the group much less to assign the tasks. Having done this before, I know what it takes, and if the job is finished by January 1959, I shall think it has been accomplished with appropriate speed. It may go more rapidly than I anticipate, and perhaps I should have turned it over to some one else altogether, but my sense of duty (or whatever it is that has gnawed at my psyche) in this matter virtually compelled me to accept.

This will hardly please you, and by way of making amends, I agree herewith