

June 5, 1970

Dr. Jorge Fernandez Osorio
Director, Occupational Health Unit
Mexican Institute of Social Security
Mexico, D.F.

Dear Doctor Osorio:

Following the receipt of your letter of May 8, Doctor Suskind made the necessary inquiries, first of the bibliographic staff of the Laboratory, and a little later, when I returned from attendance at one of our professional meetings, he questioned me concerning the availability of further information than that supplied from the Library in the form of reports and publications of the Laboratory.

I suggested that I thought it desirable that I write to you, first to indicate that I am still available at the Laboratory (where I am working, more or less as before, and with cooperation from other members of the Staff of the Laboratory, but without administrative responsibilities, in Emeritus capacity). You may have further questions to raise, and if you do, I shall be pleased to answer them, as well as I can. You may wish to raise issues that have to do with methods of testing earthenware for its resistance to the extraction of metals from glazes, and our chemists in this field, with whom I have worked for many years may, perhaps, be helpful.

The real problem, so far as my experience goes, has to do with the nature of the materials employed in fabricating a glaze for ceramic ware. The composition of the glaze is important, of course, and the temperature and duration of firing are highly instrumental in converting the combined metallic ingredients, such as lead, into the silicate. Such experience as I've had leads me to believe that proper firing to accomplish this complete conversion is one of the highly important factors in reducing the extractability of lead from the glaze.

As to the research laboratories ^{which} are presently engaged in work of this type, or have, in the past, had experience in this field, I cannot give you satisfactory advice at present. However, I can find out from persons who are well informed in this respect, and give you, if you wish, such information as I can obtain.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

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cc: Raymond R. Suskind, M.D.

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