

out destroying the panel. The preparation of the paper to receive this protective coat is very important as the application of coatings—whether lacquer, varnish, shellac or any other transparent coater—will darken or discolor the design and often destroy the effect. However, with a proper size coating the original color can be preserved. There are many sizes on the market that claim to give absolute satisfaction but in the experience of the writer there is no cure-all as yet. The way to find out if you have the proper size is to take a small piece of paper, of same pattern that is used on the door panel, mount it on a board and make a test on this.

When the size is dry and the protective coat has been applied, the color of the paper should not materially change. If it does, use another size or size with two coats as the single one may not have been strong enough. In sizing paper only thin light coats should be used and two coats are always preferable to one as the least miss is magnified very much by the protective coat.

Just to mention a size and not to offer a few simple but efficient suggestions would be leaving the reader in the dark. Knowledge of the ingredient of a composition and of the ultimate effect on certain colors is absolutely essential here.

What Size Should Be Used

The first size that a painter calls to his service is usually the original glue size. Well, this time the old

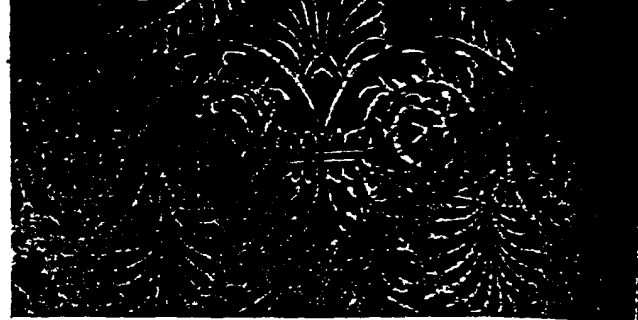


Illustration of the John C. Calhoun paper shown by M. H. Birge & Sons Co. at the recent Wall Paper Institute Exposition, which created a great deal of favorable comment.

glue size that has so many other virtues is not the best for it has a tendency to darken the color of the paper. Gelatin which is bought in any drug store in the blue package for 25 cents is made by some of the glue manufacturers, and is the best. (Not the gelatin that madam uses at home to make the good looking desserts). However, this gelatin can be strengthened by the addition of a small quantity of alum. The alum should be boiled and put in the gelatin when both are hot. Two coats of this size are usually right and generally a fine coater for the ground, upon which to apply the protective coat.

Some times this method of using gelatin size also fails and darkens the colors so that they do not retain the desired shade. We therefore must take a size of

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