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TILO
Topics

$H_4 Mg_3 Si_2 O_2$

Magic was one of the most important factors that influenced the activities of man, especially in ancient times.

Charlemagne, who was King of the Franks from 768 to 814 A. D. is reported to have avoided a war by means of a magic tablecloth.

When the Saracen hordes threatened to invade his kingdom, Charlemagne invited his enemies to a "big two" peace conference. After feasting, he took the tablecloth stained with wine and grease and flung it into a roaring fireplace. His guests were amused at the antics of the obviously rich King who could wilfully destroy such a rare and costly cloth.

But a few minutes later, their amusement turned to fear when he withdrew the cloth, cleansed of its stains but unharmed by the flames! They fled in fear and advised their king to avoid war with a king possessed of magical powers!

The tablecloth, of course, had been woven of rare asbestos.

Scattered throughout history are stories of this wonderous material which is a mineral, but with an unusual fibrous structure that allows it to be handled like wool, cotton or silk. In its native state, it is chemically called a hydrous magnesium silicate, the formula for which is: $H_4 Mg_3 Si_2 O_2$.

The Romans used it for funeral garments of kings, so that at cremation, the royal ashes would not be mixed with the ashes of the fire.

"Perpetual" wicks for lamps to burn before the Greek gods, were made from this amazing material. After traveling through Siberia, Marco Polo wrote of seeing textiles that resisted fire.

Italy is called the "cradle of the asbestos industry," having made thread, fabrics and paper early in the 19th century. But, in Quebec in 1877, a large vein of asbestos was discovered among serpentine rock. This source supplies about 90 percent of the world's needs, although some mines are being

This is the first in a series of articles to appear in future issues of The Tapist on the historical background of the principal raw materials that are utilized in the manufacture of Tile products. —ED.

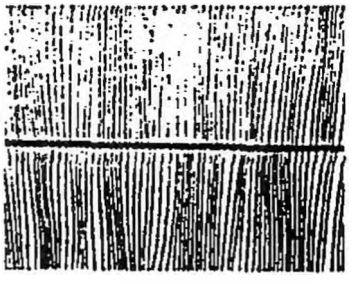
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BEFORE . . . as it appears when it is mined in serpentine rock deposits, asbestos fibres are of varying lengths. After a crushing and screening process, the fibres are separated from the rock by a vacuum method and placed in bags for shipment. Asbestos is the only natural inorganic fibre known to man.

DURING . . . Tilo processes the asbestos fibre with other ingredients in the manufacturing process. Notice the many laminations. At this point, the panel is compacted (or pressed together like plywood) under many tons of pressure and placed in slow-curing ovens.





AFTER . . . Following the ovenizing process, the panels are trimmed to size by our precision broach cutter, and an exterior protective and decorative covering is applied. Thus after a long journey, the indestructible asbestos fibre reposes forever on the homes where it is applied, under the Tilo trade name — COLORSTONE.

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worked in this country, Africa, Russia, and Italy.

Time, heat, pressure, in some mysterious process deep within the earth, transformed massive serpentine rock formations to fibrous asbestos. The width of the vein, from razor edge to several inches, determines the length of the fibre. Although most of the material is gleaned from shaft type mining, some of it is mined from quarries and underground tunnels.

Over eighteen years ago, Tilo began using asbestos in the manufacture of some of our sidewall products. Approximately 150 railroad cars of asbestos, or about three per week, are brought into our Stratford plant from the mines in Quebec.

The long asbestos fibre is more costly than the short variety, and Tilo, naturally, uses more of the former than any other concern in the sidewall industry. We have been in the sidewall business many more years than eighteen, however, but ever since 1937 our mechanics have served millions of homes with our unique, laminated siding panels which are strengthened and made fire-resistant by the asbestos fibres.

There is no longer any magic about asbestos. Its qualities are known to all, and man has harnessed these qualities in the service of man.

STEP-MINING is one of the ways in which asbestos is taken from the earth. Veins running as low as 100 feet are tapped by shaft and tunnelling mining methods. Shipments of the fibre have come to Tilo from this crater in Quebec.



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