

COPY

May 28, 1946.

American Craftsmen's
Cooperative Council, Inc.
485 Madison Ave.
New York 22, N.Y.

Editor, Craft Horizons:

On reading Ann Leichter Munn's article "Using Sheet Lead As A Decorative Medium", I was appalled at the casualness with which she mentions the danger attendant in the general use of this metal for decorative design.

May I, for the benefit of those unwary craftsmen who are contemplating using lead in this manner, mention a few of its "Disadvantages" since the author has failed to do so anywhere in her article.

Some of the symptoms of this "very lovely experience" are- nausea, vomiting, anemia, abdominal pains, muscle cramps, and joint pains, to say nothing of possible impairment in function of any part of the nervous system, often leading to muscle atrophy and the characteristic foot and wrist drop, even brain disease.

Is it any wonder her chemist friends "seemed a bit disturber"? Otherwise it was a good article and she is a beautiful craftsman.

Sincerely, (Miss) Francis E. Fuller, Occupational Therapist
161 W. 16th St., New York 11, N.Y.

Germantown Pike at
Whitehall Road
Norriston Square
Pennsylvania (R.D. 2 Norristown)
June 6th, 1946.

To the Editors of
Craft Horizons
New York City, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

It is with great indignation that I write you concerning the very attractive article in the May issue of Craft Horizons, "Using Sheet Lead as a Decorative Medium" by Ann Leichter Munn.

The article is so enticing and the medium so flexible that almost anyone would dive headfirst into crafting lead. The writer minimizes the terrible dangers to such a point that it is like blowing a bit of thistledown off one's shoulder. Perhaps she has never seen anyone suffer and finally die of lead poisoning. A child could quickly become ill by just having rubbed his tiny hands several times over the design on her attractive chests and then putting his fingers in his mouth for a moment. House painters get what is known as "painter's colic" from having absorbed whitelead thru the skin, and yearly thousands of wild ducks die from having eaten lead shot that have dropped in shallow water. Several years ago I was horrified to see the Philadelphia Art Alliance a beautiful bird bath of cast lead. The maker certainly couldn't have been conscious of offering birds a lethal bath and drunk.

N 5870

In all fairness to your readers I think it would be wise to publish a more definite warning against the use of lead for art purposes, especially when in the hands of the average person. It is no joke to have offered a dangerous medium, with the possible death from its use. The enclosed item from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin is very timely, it seems to me.

Yours very truly,
William Slough.

American Craftsmen's Educational Council
485 Madison Avenue at 52nd Street
June 13, 1946.

Mrs. Ann Leichliter Munn
726 Duff Avenue
Ames, Iowa

Dear Mrs. Munn:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have just received about lead poisoning. I think the man is an over-alarmist, but I thought that I would publish his letter in the Craftsmen's Forum of our August issue, and perhaps you would like to answer it in advance. I would be most appreciative if you would do so.

I hope that you liked the way we ran your article and will be glad to send you some extra copies if you would like to have them.

Yours most sincerely,
Aileen W. Webb
Mrs. Vanderbilt Webb
Vice-President

notation in longland: The second letter came after I wrote this
May we have them back?

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