

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

60 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

October 1, 1957

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

July 1 to September 30, 1957

The following report covers the highlights of Association activities during the third quarter of 1957. More detailed information on these activities or others not enumerated herein will be supplied on request.

GENERAL

1. "Lead" - Another issue of the quarterly "Lead" was distributed to our mailing list of nearly 50,000 people, and still another was prepared and is in the hands of the printers.

2. Research Survey - The "Evaluation of Research Needs and Formulation of a Research Program" for L.I.A., started by Battelle Memorial Institute in May, has proceeded on schedule. Three monthly progress reports were submitted by the Institute to our Technical Steering Committee and a meeting to discuss findings informally is being arranged for our Committee and Battelle personnel for October.

3. Cable Sheathing - John Robertson Co. has informed us that the experimental extrusion press is under construction and may be ready for operation this fall.

4. Annual Meeting, 1958 - Arrangements with the hotel for the 1958 annual meeting have been completed. It will be held jointly with the American Zinc Institute at the Chase and Park Plaza Hotels in St. Louis on April 14-16, 1958. The first day will be devoted to the Zinc Institute meeting, the second morning to a joint session, and the second afternoon and third morning to L.I.A. sessions.

5. American Mining Congress - The Secretary attended the annual meeting of the Western Division of A.M.C. in Salt Lake City.

6. Publicity - A number of publicity releases on various applications of lead were picked up by the press. A special article was prepared for publication in the house organ of Lykes Bros. Steamship Co.

7. Annual Review - The annual review of technical developments in lead was prepared for "Industrial and Engineering Chemistry," and will appear shortly. Reprints will be circulated.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

8. Governmental Threshold Limit for Lead in Air - With the publication in September of the "Threshold Limit Values for 1957" of the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists, the allowable limit for lead in the atmosphere of work



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places was officially increased from the long-accepted 0.15 to 0.2 milligrams per cubic meter of air. As was pointed out in our Lead Hygiene and Safety Bulletin No. 125, Sept. 25, 1957, this 33 1/3% increase followed the recommendation of a subcommittee of the American Standards Association of which our health and safety director is chairman.

9. Red Lead Paints in Potable Water Supply Tanks - To prove the fallacy of an opinion adverse to the use of red lead paints on the interiors of potable water supply tanks, given by an official of the U. S. Public Health Service in 1949 and accepted at that time by the Army Engineers, a study of the lead content of waters in tanks so painted was initiated by us in 1950 and, with uniformly favorable results, is still being carried on. The value of this study was demonstrated anew in August of this year, when, as the result of sales propaganda for competing paints, the Steel Structures Painting Council and a committee of the American Water Works Association again brought this practice into question. As this is written, there is every reason to believe that the more than seventy findings to date in our study will again serve to support the entire safety of this use of red lead paints.

10. Warning Labels - As had been predicted, a wave of legislation relative to requirement of warning labels on products allegedly hazardous to health has been sweeping the country. With the cooperation of the Manufacturing Chemists' Association, such legislation has been watched in the U. S. Congress and in the States of Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Washington, with results on the whole favorable to our effort to secure uniformity in such enactments. As a further move toward uniformity, a conference was held on September 26th with representatives of the M.C.A., with the purpose of bringing their labeling recommendations into line with those of the American Standards Association. A major victory in this field was the reversal, by the North Carolina Supreme Court, of a lower court decision in which heavy damages had been awarded for failure to label a shipment of litharge as "poison."

11. Lead Poisoning from Motor Exhausts - The allegation in 1955, by a Los Angeles group, that lead from the exhausts of motor vehicles using ethyl gasoline constituted a hazard to the public health, was effectively rebutted by measurements of lead in street air, secured from official sources in half a dozen major cities, none of which indicated concentrations remotely approaching a hazardous level. That eternal vigilance is required in this, as in all such propaganda adverse to lead, was shown in August and September of this year, when the allegation was again put forward from the Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Chicago. Rebuttal of these latest statements is currently under way.

12. Childhood Lead Poisoning - The problem of childhood plumbism continues to vex us in a variety of ways. In our favor was the fact that the Health Department of Philadelphia submitted to us, prior to publication, the manuscript of a leaflet on this subject, thus enabling its modification. The allegation that children may be poisoned by lead in newsprint is again to the fore. To settle this once and for all, arrangements are being for analytical work at a competent laboratory. The last week of September brought telephone requests for assistance from two agencies of the U. S. Public Health Service and the Health Departments of New Jersey and California in connection with large importations of Japanese toys stated to be coated with paints containing a high percentage of lead. Though a North Carolina importer is said to be withholding these toys from the market pending investigation, it seems doubtful that there is any legal means to prevent their sale. It is our belief and that of the Toy Manufacturers of the U.S.A., Inc. that no toys made in this country are coated with lead paints.

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13. Publications on Lead Hygiene - Section 10 of our manual on Lead in the Ceramic Industries has been reprinted with the title "Handling Lead Compounds in the Ceramic Industries" and supplied to manufacturers of lead-bearing frits for distribution to their customers as a means of securing safe use of these products. Arrangements have been made with the Industrial Hygiene Foundation to prepare the section on Lead Hygiene for the forthcoming Monograph on Lead of the American Chemical Society. As one of its Hygienic Guides Series, the American Industrial Hygiene Association is preparing such a guide on the safe use of lead and its compounds. Through the courtesy of the committee in charge of this work, the draft of the guide has been submitted to us for criticism and a number of changes have been suggested.

14. A.A.A.S. Industrial Hygiene Program - The Engineering Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has arranged for its program at the annual meeting in December several papers on industrial hygiene subjects, including the detection and control of such atmospheric contaminants as lead dust and fume. As a member of the section's Program Committee, our health and safety director has been active in securing nationally-known speakers for the program.

15. Lead Hygiene and Safety Bulletins - Three Lead Hygiene and Safety Bulletins have been mailed to our members during the quarter.

METALLIC LEAD PRODUCTS

16. Sweet's Catalog - The four-page catalog on lead roofing and flashing for Sweet's in 1958 was completed and proofs approved. The catalog on lead plumbing was written and proofs are awaited.

17. National Chemical Exposition - The design of our exhibit for the National Chemical Exposition was approved and a contract signed for its construction.

18. Solder - The Soldering Handbook has been completed except for the re-writing of our chapter.

19. Apprentice Training - Awards were presented to the three best lead workers in the International Plumbers' Apprenticeship Contest held at Purdue University. Mr. Borcina served as judge of lead work.

20. Instruction in Lead Work - Mr. Yetman conducted a series of courses in instruction of lead work for instructors of apprentices, held at the same time.

21. Corrosion Resistance - Mr. Mullarkey prepared an extensive article on the use of lead to handle corrosives in the oil refining industry which was accepted for publication and will appear shortly in "Petroleum Refiner."

22. New Plumbing Tool - We are cooperating with the inventor and manufacturer of a new tool which materially speeds and simplifies wiping joints in lead pipe. We believe that general adoption of this tool by the plumbing industry will place lead in a much better competitive basis.

23. Construction Bulletin - The third in our series of Lead Building Construction Bulletins has been prepared and is ready for the printer. It deals with lead chemical laboratory installations.

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CERAMICS

24. Supplement - The first supplement to "Lead in the Ceramic Industries" is in the hands of the printers and should be ready for distribution in October. Two other supplements are in preparation.

25. Exhibits - Design was approved and a contract signed for construction of nine permanent exhibits on lead in ceramics which will be donated to accredited colleges teaching ceramics.

26. Research - A grant was made for a third graduate research fellowship, this one at Ohio State University, to be devoted particularly to glazes for clay sewer pipe and sanitary ware.

27. Supplies - The paper delivered by the Secretary at 1956 annual meeting of the American Ceramic Society assuring ceramists of adequate lead supplies in the future, appeared in the Ceramic Society Bulletin and reprints were obtained.

28. Advertising - Monthly page ads continued to appear in "Ceramic Industry" and the "American Ceramic Society Bulletin."

29. Ceramic Technical Committee - This Committee met in late September and reviewed our ceramic program to date. It laid out a recommended program to be followed in 1958.

RED LEAD

30. Highway Painting Brochure - A promotional brochure on red lead paint for highway structures is in preparation to supplement Technical Letter No. 12 by adding a greater sales impact.

31. Red Lead Technical Committee - This Committee met in late September and reviewed this work to date. A recommended program for 1958 was then laid out.

32. Advertising - The advertising program for 1957, consisting of six one-page ads in "Engineering News-Record," was concluded in September.

33. Research - All files and reports of the 25 research projects conducted by the Red Lead Technical Committee for the past some fifteen years were reviewed, condensed, and brought up-to-date.

34. Technical Letters - Material for two new Red Lead Technical Letters has been gleaned from research projects. They can be issued as soon as funds are made available for the purpose.

35. Reprints - D. B. Steinman, engineer who designed the Mackinac Bridge and one of the country's top bridge engineers, ordered 1,000 reprints of the article in "Lead" describing the painting of the Mackinac Bridge with red lead paint. Although Mr. Steinman offered to pay for these reprints, L.I.M. supplied them gratis because of the invaluable publicity to be obtained through distribution of the article by such an authority.

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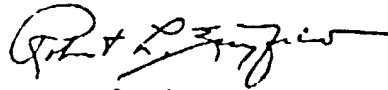
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RADIATION SHIELDING

36. National Chemical Exposition - Lead radiation shielding, with particular reference to the use of radio-active isotopes now being employed more and more extensively in the chemical processing industries, is being included in plans for our exhibit at the National Chemical Exposition.

37. A.S.T.M. Specifications - On request, we have cooperated with A.S.T.M. in formation of a Task Group to explore possible specifications for sheet lead for nuclear shielding and expect to be represented on this group.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary.