

TYPE FOUNDRY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

..... winner of the Government of India award for the
best designs in Types

GAIWADI - GIRGAON BOMBAY 4 • • PHONE 22942 - T'GRAM 'GUTYFO'

11th November 1961.

The Secretary,
American Medical Association,
535, North Dearborn Street,
Chicago.10. Ill. (U.S.A)

Dear Sirs,

A few days ago we were directed to refer to a copy of "Facts and Fallacies Concerning Exposure to Lead" ^{by} Mr. Felix E. Wornaser, M.A. and this had impelled us to write to you.

Ours is a Type Foundry undertaking manufacture of printing types only. We are casting types from Monotype Super Casters and Pivotal Type Casting Machines. The types cast from the Monotype Super Casters do not need other operations but come out ready for straight packing or for straight delivery to the customer. The types cast from Pivotal Type Casters require to be "dressed" and "finished" and especially, the types of oriental languages require to undergo one procedure known as "Kerning".

We write the above to give you an idea of what the type foundries are doing. Our problem now is as under:-

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay, considers our occupation as hazardous because the main raw materials used by us in the type metal contains a varying proportion from 65% to 80% lead 5% to 20% of antimony and balance tin. The working temperature of the type metal according to its quality varies between 685° to 725°F.

We may categorically state for your information that the temperature never goes above 725°F. The Chief Inspector of Factories considers that this type metal on heating emits poisonous fumes which are detrimental to the health of the workers working on the type casting machines. To do away with these fumes they suggest that a hood should be provided to collect these fumes and also an exhaust fan to draw same away from the top of the melting pot.

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The Chief Inspector of Factories also holds that the excess metal shred by type during the process of finishing consists of fine particles of lead which also are felt to be dangerous to the health of the workmen.

We have explained to him that both of his contentions are incorrect and that these particles of lead and/or dross do not become airborne and hence handling and manufacturing of types is in no way, a hazardous occupation.

Further we have also explained to him that the lead on heating, does not emit any poisonous fumes and that what actually is visible are the fumes of the oil dropping from the type moulds or the nozzles of the type casting machines.

We shall therefore, thank you very much if you will let us know your considered opinion in respect of the above two points and also acquaint us of the rules and regulations governing the type foundry and printing press industry in U.S.A. and the measures and precautions suggested by you to avoid lead poisoning in general by the fumes emanating from heated type metal or from lead particles and in printing and type foundry industry in particular.

In case you have any special suggestions to make about or the precautions to be taken while handling type metals, dross and printing types, same will be very much appreciated.

Finally, please also inform us what are the noticeable symptoms from lead poisoning and whether such symptoms can occur under other circumstances and conditions as well or not.

We shall await your reply in due course with interest and thanking you in advance, we remain,

Yours truly,
For GUJARATI TYPE FOUNDRY,
G. D. Mohi
Partner

GK:CD

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American Medical Association

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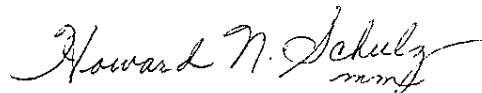
November 27, 1961

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

I would appreciate it very much if you would
reply to this inquiry from India.

Sincerely yours,



Howard N. Schulz
Assistant Director

HNS:mmm
Encl.

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