

Marblehead

July 26, 1905

Dear Prof Binns:-

I seem to be up against my share of hard luck. So far, the new glazes have given no better results than the old. I have tried them three times without even a promise of anything satisfactory. The first time they crawled and blistered very badly. I thought this was due to reduction so next time I gave the kiln all the air it could get and thought surely there could be no possibility of reduction, but the glazes blistered and crawled again nearly as badly as before. The third time I put the glaze on very thin to try and stop the crawling. The kiln was not fired quite so hard this time because I was firing some bright glazes at the same time and did not want to over fire them. The matts did not even melt, but began to crawl as before and would probably have acted the same as the others if they had been fired harder.

I think I have given the glazes a fair test and have decided that it is about useless to attempt matt glazes with this kiln. I am very sorry and so of course are the people more.

I think Dr. Hall is ready to get a new kiln. He is very anxious for some good results and if a larger kiln will get them he is willing to buy one. What, in your judgement would be the best kiln to buy? The Caulkins people have three which will reach cone 10 and above. It seems to me that the three burner \$450 kiln would be about the thing. Do you think their \$500 kiln would be enough better to pay for the extra cost? Or would the \$175 kiln be good enough for our purpose? I am sending you the Caulkins list, as I don't know whether you have one or not. Please return it when you write.

If we get a new kiln we want it as soon as possible. Could we save any money by ordering the kiln through you? If you could get any discount I am sure Dr. Hall would appreciate it very much.

I certainly hope that with a new kiln and some new 04 glazes I can give them something satisfactory. So far I have not done them any good at all except in finding out what their kiln cannot do. Of course I can go on working with bright glazes but that is not what they want or what I want. No doubt we could, in time, get a matt that would work all right in this kiln but they don't want to spend so much time in experiment. They want results right away and the quickest way to get them seems to be by getting the new kiln. Please let me know as soon possible which kiln you think would suit us best.

I had a letter from Fred Walrath yesterday, offering me a place with him in Chicago for next year. I would receive \$50 per month and free tuition in Chicago Univ. What do you think about it? Would it be a good thing for me or would it be better for me to be in school next year? Financially it would pay better to stay where I am – if they care to keep me, which they probably will not unless things take a turn for the better. I am sure I can give them some good things however when I get a new kiln to work with.

Hoping to hear from you soon I am,

Yours sincerely
Arthur E. Baggs.