

GRUEBY FAIENCE COMPANY
MAKERS OF ENAMELED TERRA
COTTA, TILES, GRUEBY POTTERY
K AND FIRST ST'S, BOSTON, MASS

Boston, Mass.

Dec. 11 1907.

Dear Professor: -

I thought I would write you so you would know some thing, how things are moving here.

On my arrival I was told that my work would be to fire an oil kiln and evidently nothing else and that Mr. Grueby was my boss, well, I took it all gracefully and said 'all right': but the kiln hasn't arrived yet although we expect it soon.

But things changed yesterday, so now I have a chance for my life, all barriers apparently removed and I am permitted to go ahead and locate all their troubles and they are having a lot of them, and from my observations so far they can all be traced to bad formulas, of course Mr. Grueby is loath to admit it, but I think that now I can soon prove it to him, as I shall place trials in every kiln, with for ^{white} enamels and mat glazes.

Out of a kiln of over three hundred pieces of pottery, which was drawn Monday, there wasn't a good one in the lot, wasn't that remarkable?

The burn was all right; ~~and~~ the lead burner

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is a good man but he catches a great deal of the blame for the bad kilns, but isn't the blame..

Out of three kilns for white enamel tiles (about 21,000) there have been a very small percent of good ones, I should judge about 5-7%, isn't it awful? Still Mr. Gruby either tries to lay it to the body or firing or sulphuring, all of which may have some effect, but none of them will cause the enormous losses which they are having and I feel sure I will prove it to them. A few tiles show blistering which I think might be caused by the presence of sulphates in the body but that is about the only effect I notice from that source. When I first came all their troubles were caused by sulphur in the coal, but I haven't heard much about that lately.

I have been thinking about sending you samples of their troubles with explanations as far as I know. Of course Mr. Gruby keeps his processes a secret; but I'm sure that I wouldn't give much for them, judging from their present output.

This freedom has come to me since yesterday's visitation of the president of the company, and a brick put in by the manager of the pottery department because the Gruby people cannot furnish the

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pottery for agreement. Of course I welcome it and now is my chance to show what I can do and you can feel assured that I shall do my best. I feel confident that I can soon show them where they are.

Every one has been very nice to me, so now I am looking forward to a very successful time. They have agreed to use my glazes if I ~~show~~ prove that I have a better thing commercially in production and effect. And under the present state of affairs I do not think it will be a very big task to demonstrate that point.

Naturally, Mr. Grueby would be opposed to me as he receives about \$1,000 a year for the use of his formulae and would not care to have others ~~take~~ substituted so I will await the outcome with interest.

If there are any suggestions you would care to offer me I would receive them cheerfully,

Sincerely yours

F. E. Walrath

of Grueby Faience Co.,