

THE NEWARK MUSEUM

C. J.P.G.

February 10, 1992

Dr. Michele Refregier  
Talc De Luzenac  
B.P. 1162  
3136 Toulouse Cedex  
FRANCE

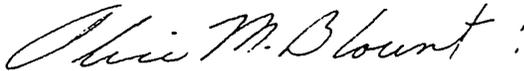
Dear Dr. Refregier:

Slim Thompson called recently about my paper in Environmental Health Perspectives. He said that you had been in contact with him. I am not trying to cause the talc industry any problems. I think lack of knowledge is a more serious problem. I have been told by the Industrial Hygienist that consults for this institution that all talc contains asbestos and we should not use any products containing talc.

The reason I have carried out this study is that I am asked to analyze very pure talcs for amphiboles. It takes a great deal of time to do 100 fields of view. Sometimes it is necessary to go to 1000 f.o.v. It is not fun! It seemed to me that there had to be an easier way, and to establish the validity of a method it is necessary to publish it for peer review. That is why the paper has appeared in print. Even if I use the old method, the new one is useful to give me an idea of how much effort will be needed to do the analysis to the accuracy required.

As I told Slim Thompson I have analyzed many talc samples (only a few reported) and often blind, in that I did not know their sources at the time the analyses were done. I do not believe I am misrepresenting these talcs. For individual deposits, the shape distribution and quantity remains fairly constant over time.

Sincerely yours,



Alice M. Blount

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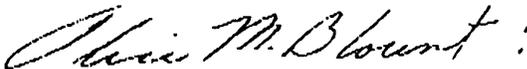
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Sincerely yours,



Alice M. Blount

A Italian

B Willow Creek, MT

C Pfizer, MT

D. North Carolina

E Alabama

F Willow Creek, MT

G Barretts, MT (floated in Alabama)

H Italian

I Windsor, VT - baby powder

J Vermont

K Vermont

L Vermont

M Vermont

N Steetley, Ontario

O Montana Talc Co., MT

*floated - one from  
Whitlow & Tracy*