

HN 222)

WASC 1006

address explosion

WASC 1006
WAI 225

Correspondence with
Royal Society re
floor covering

9-7-1801 - 23-3-1802
(all 3 letters scanned)

WASC 100

Copy -

We the Committee appointed by the Council of the Royal Society to take into consideration the questions proposed by the Lieutenant General and Board of Ordnance on the 29th May 1801. are of opinion, that no danger is to be apprehended from such electrical excitation as can be produced by walking or rolling Barrels upon the Hides as now used to cover the floors of the Magazines &c. at the Royal Powder Works at Waltham Abbey, even when the said Hides are used without being previously wetted, We are also of opinion, that no danger of explosion from electrical excitation can arise from the use of Silk Lusting Reels in the
Manufacture of Gunpowder

With respect to the question, which is the best covering for the floors of Powder Works and Magazines, We are of opinion: that the Hides as now used, have the disadvantage of affording a lodgement for the Dust of the Powder, as they do not lie close upon each other, or upon the floor, on which account we think that some uniform
Material

Material of sufficient size to cover the whole floor, such as painted floor cloth without seams would, in that respect be preferable and would be equally free from danger by electrical excitation,

signed - Jos: Banks. P. R. S.
Rumford
C. Blagden,
H. Cavendish,
C. W. Gray
Charles Hatchett

July 23. 1801

100

Office of Ordnance
Westonⁿ 9 July 1801.

Gentlemen

The Council of the Royal Society have
at the Desire of The Board appointed a
Committee to take a View of the Ordnance
works at Waltham Abbey on Wednesday
next 15th Instant for the Purpose of
investigating a Matter which The Board
have referred for the Consideration of
the Royal Society regarding the Floor of
Tower Magazine: I am directed to
accompany you therewith and to signify
the Boards Commands that you attend
the Committee upon their Arrival at
Waltham Abbey and afford them such
Information as they shall require
from you in the Progress of their Enquiry

Yours
O. C.

The Committee will consist of the
President, Sir Joseph Banks, one of
their Secretaries, Sir Charles Blagden,
Mr Caverdish, Mr Hatched and
Louis Rumpfod, and Colonel
Engle has been desired to be present
at the Meeting

I am
Gentlemen

Your most obed^t
humble Serv^t

A. Brown,

I have ordered
Mess^{rs} Angell & Son
to send down some
Refreshment for the
Committee at their Meeting

A.M.

8
Gentlemen

Faversham 23 March 1802.

In answer to your Letter of Yesterday I have
to acquaint you that upon the 6th August last
I did by order of the Board transmit to Mr
Brew an account of the Quantity of Painted
Floor Cloth that would be required for covering
the Floors of the several magazines at Faversham
and Wallham Abbey. The Board's Order does
state the opinion of the Committee of the Royal
Society, but made mention of magazines only.
I observe however that Mr Sew in his Letter
to you of 19th Instant states the
determination of the Board to be, that the
Floors of the different Buildings wherein the
Manufacture of Gunpowder is carried on,
should be covered with Painted Canvas.
I have therefore written to him by this day's
Post to remind him of the demand of
Floor Cloth made by me 6th August.

and

and to request he will inform me whether
it is the intention of the Board that the Floors
of any other Buildings besides the Magazines
should be covered with that Material. In
the mean time I shall beg of you to let
me know what other Buildings you think
it advisable to have provided with Floor
Cloth in like manner with the Magazines
As such coverings for the Floor form a part
of fitting up the Building for service, it
appears to me, that agreeable with the
Regulations of the Board ⁱⁿ Feb^y 1707
the Demand of Painted Canvas should be
made by the Commanding Engineer.

I am Gentlemen

Yr. most Obedt. Sr.

John Furley