

Commercial St. Burslem June 4th
1805

Dear Brother,

I take the liberty once more to avail myself of your kind offer to give me what instruction I may want in the Manufacturing department; and I now stand in need of every ~~information~~ information upon the subject, w^{ch} I can possibly procure, I hope my D^r B^r will excuse the trouble this request will give him, and be assured nothing shall be wanting (with the help of Divine Providence) on my part to make every grateful return w^{ch} may ever lay in my power.

I have the to inform you M^r Jn^o Wedgwood is shortly going to live at Etruria and intends to appropriate a part of the Works to make Blue printed &c; and proposed to me, as I understood something about it, to situate me at the head of that business and w^{ch} he could make to my advantage. I shall feel myself very much oblig'd if you can give me a little instruction upon this subject particularly the making of Glazes & preparing the Blue. The glaze which you gave me in the book of recipes I think w^d be rather too complicated for me to start with and ~~depend on~~ will require a little practice before I can use it to advantage. I sh^d be glad if you could write me one out that I could make a trial of at once, that is so many pounds of lead, stone, glass-fritt &c in such proportion as will make a small blending of about 1 cwt or thereabouts and how much calx or stain or blue fritt I may add, and should be as white a glaze as possible for

Mr Wedgwood does not like the cloudy blue glaze used in the Pottery. The expence of the compounds will be no object if I can excell in making a good article — Mr W. shewed me some fine pieces of very white ware of my Fathers making w^{ch} he preferred to any he ever saw. The glaze appears to be very soft & transparent and in practice here it was thick it has a greenish appearance. If you could give me the proportions of this it would be of very great service, tho' it may not answer for a printing glaze.

The information w^{ch} I shall chiefly want will be

A Glaze with white fritt and what instructions you can give me for the mixing &c.

A D^o with blue fritt — & ————— d^o —————

A D^o for fine pearl white — & ——— d^o — if opaque it will not be any disadvantage

Directions for ~~making~~ manufacturing Zaffre & Cobalt and making them into printing blue — this I should be glad to know as much as possible about as Mr W. intends to build a kiln to make it the same as the blue manufacturers. —

The price of Calx is from 42/- to 73/6 for lb this last the color makers refine from the common Calx and the cakes are sold whole and are quite porous.—

Directions for making the brown edges, biscuit & enamel Mr W. mentioned a brown w^{ch} he said was formerly made at Etruria of Nickel, and sh^d like it to be made for [smudged lettering] colouring the edges &c—

Directions for Burnish gold — the recipe you gave me

for making burnish gold I have tried but do not find it answers, as it will not stick upon the ware, should not the be some flux used which would make it stay[?] Burnish — ing. I also found it impossible to grind without adding Nitrous acid to fix the Mercury w^d it not be a more safe or certain method to use a precipitate of gold —

Directions for making printing Brown & biscuit & enamel yellow — they use a yellow in the pottery w^{ch} is of a much brighter or warmer tinge than that made from Naples Yellow — I believe it is made from Litharge, Tin & Antimony and is very much taken to, but this is not material.—

For the flat Glaze in the Recipe book you say 8 Kitts Stone & 7 Kitts Fritt but I cannot tell what weight a [torn] pint of Fritt is. I suppose the stone to be [24¹/₂?] oz to [the one] pint.

Does the Royal Smalts when used for a stain require to be twice fused in the biscuit oven if so should it not be pulverized after the first fusion.

May not Flint be used in lieu of Isle of Wight Sand in the Fritt —

May I again solicit my D^r Brothers kind attention to the foregoing remarks wh^{ch} if, they will enable me to perform the engagement I may make, will be of the greatest service to me and will most [probably?] turn out to the advantage of the Family at large.

You have perhaps heard M^r Byerley is going
from Etruria to reside in London and the whole of the
Wedgwood family are about to return to Etruria
& Maer — I conclude Dear Brother with love to yourself
Sister and Family —

Your ever affectionate Brother
Abner Wedgwood

The letter is addressed

Ab. Wedgwood — 4 June 1805

Mr. Wedgwood
Bransford
near Worcester

[illegible]

