

SF Bk 1 English letter 417 transcribed (by Brian Falk)

Dec 8th 1896

Dear Gery

I saw Dr Hehuer & arranged to meet us at 37 Chancery Lane tomorrow at 4 pm. He says all the opinions already given are based on the Patent Specification only (Paper) not on practical tests. It is important to know the dates of the opinions & to find out whether mantles can really be made in accordance with the specification.

If so, he considers the Patent good, but he admits he never saw (?Scandinium) nor Thorium which is free from Cerium. Unless pure Thorium (i.e.free from Cerium) can be obtained, they would infringe Welsbach.

To test these rare earths & to find out whether mantles composed of them are any good, would take him a couple of days & may cost us 20 guineas. Shall we spend so much?

For the present Hehuer can see what there is to see & if we don't want him to make tests it will be only a question of a few guineas

S Falk

[Technical note: It is noted that mantles without the wee percentage of Cerium are reported to be significantly weaker than ones that use it. The Cerium also was alleged to make the light whiter. Welsbach's formula DID prevail, and was still used unto the turn of the 21st century when radioactivity became an issue, and the use of Thorium was discontinued, at least in the West. :: Fil Graff ::]