

THE CASTLE  
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

January 22, 1962.

Mr. William A. Wolf,  
1025 Clarence Avenue,  
Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am very interested to hear that you have the hull of one of the N.Y. 30s, but I really think on a lead of this size you would save money to have it cast for you at a local foundry for I think it would be much better to have the lead all run in in one pouring, and it will save you a lot of money to have a nice smooth lead on the outside.

The foundries can buy lead cheaper than you can and it will be well to let them know a lead keel is better made out of scrap lead that has a certain amount of antimony, pewter and other things in it, and particularly type metal for this is cheaper than virgin lead and it stiffens so it is hard enough to drill, plane and chisel better than virgin lead.

I have never known of a lead poured in several pourings, but I am quite sure that there would be grooves around the outside that would have to be later filled with cement. Also in pouring in lead if you use a male pattern it is very much easier to construct than a female wooden mold, and the wooden mold should be sunk in a hole in the ground with the earth firmly tamped all around it to support it for the lead has an enormous bursting strain from its own weight which will have a tendency to open up the seams of a wooden mold. Also I hope you know that if you use a wooden mold the inner wood surface must be well painted with graphite mixed with water to stop the lead from charring or burning the wooden mold.

On the whole I am quite sure you will get the lead cheaper and better when cast in sand at the foundry.

Yours truly,

Francis Hereshoff