

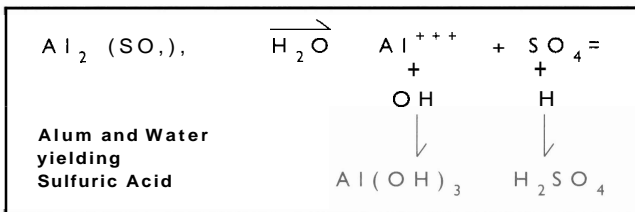
THE FACTS ABOUT CONSERVATION AND MUSEUM BOARD

Your fine art deserves the highest quality matting and mounting materials made today, and so do your customers. As part of this obligation, you deserve to know the facts about methods of manufacture, contents and permanency of the board you are using.

Most paper manufacturers obtain their water from nearby rivers. Obviously, whatever foreign matter is contained in the water can wind up in their paper. Iron and copper minerals, organic chemicals, micro-organisms, etc., can create a yellowish brown discoloration or stain in your print called foxing - exactly what Museum Mounting Board is meant to prevent. Adding to the problem, mills that use river water first usually add alum to the water. Alum is a flocculent, a settling agent for the silt and impurities in the water.

WHAT IS ALUM?

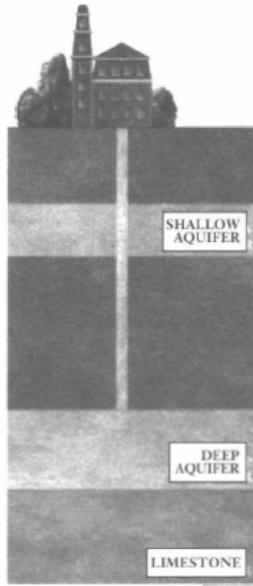
Aluminum sulfate - a colorless salt $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ is used extensively in papermaking. It is a weak base/strong acid compound. The sulfate radical, the SO_4 in the presence of water, yields sulfuric acid - this is the principle behind the acid rain phenomena which is eating away our buildings and souring lakes and streams. The trivalent aluminum is also a deteriorating element. Alum is a double attack on permanence.



Most products being sold today as "acid free" or "neutral pH" in fact contain alum. The manufacturer has "neutralized" the pH of the paper by washing a caustic (alkaline) solution into the paper on the paper machine. This raises the pH to 7 or over. The most common buffering agent is calcium carbonate, which reacts with alum to yield calcium sulfate. But the sulfate radical (the acid) is never eliminated and the acid reaction is still active. Most manufacturers use alum to set colors. Ever tie a tie-dye or any other dyeing? One way to "set" the dye is to add vinegar to your dye solution. Vinegar is an acid and a mordant for the dye. It literally helps the dye attach itself to the cellulose. Many mills use alum to set their colors, then they can "neutralize" the sheet with a caustic (alkaline) solution and hide the alum - at least for now.

THE RISING DIFFERENCE:

In the Berkshire Mountains in Western Massachusetts is situated a mill which is listed in the Natural Register of Historic Places...Rising Paper Company. Mother Nature has been kind in supplying artesian well water from a limestone water table 800 feet below the earth's surface. Add to this, 100 years of papermaking skills and you have the finest



range of conservation papers available. For the 60 years that we have tested our water, it has never varied in these astonishing characteristics: pH 7.2-7.6, no iron or copper traces, and a high concentration of calcium. Mum is never used in our mounting board manufacturing process and the dye stuffs used to obtain a range of subtle colors are the most permanent available. To provide you with matchless quality, Museum Mounting Board is laminated right at the Rising mill. Then it is trimmed, hand sorted sheet by sheet and packaged in moisture-proof cartons. Most other matboards and museum boards in the marketplace are the composite products of two or three manufac-

turers. Rising Museum Mounting Boards feature 100% rag content, a variety of whites and colors, including black, and are available in 30 point, 60 point, and 120 point thicknesses. All the base stocks and lamination take place under our supervision at the mill.

A WORD ABOUT RAG:

Conservators have generally discounted the artificial aging tests currently in use. Much additional research will be necessary before a procedure can be established to accurately predict the effects of aging on paper. But this much we can be sure of - the papers that have survived the true test of time through the centuries are all rag papers, since cotton is naturally lignin free.

A WORD ABOUT CONSERVATION BOARD:

Rising Conservation Board is a non-rag, high alpha content, lignin free, quality mounting board for both art and photographic subjects. Let nothing come between fine work and this acid-free, non-contaminating, fade-resistant board. Conservation Board is relatively inexpensive and designed for extended longevity. It is offered with calcium carbonate for additional protection. Conservation Board comes in antique white, snow white, white and ivory in 2 and 4 ply options.