

THE
HISTORY
O F
Jewels,

And of the Principal Riches of
the *EAST* and *WEST*.

Taken from
The Relation of Divers of the
Most Famous Travellers of
OUR AGE.

Attended with
FAIR DISCOVERIES
Conducing to the knowledge of the
UNIVERSE and TRADE.

LONDON,
Printed by T. N. for Hobart, Kamm
Sign of the Ship in the
the New Exchanges

• 152 KEMP, HOBART. THE HISTORY OF JEWELS, AND OF THE PRINCIPAL RICHES OF THE EAST AND WEST

Taken from the Relation of Divers of the most Famous Travellers of our Age. Attended with Fair Discoveries, conduced to Knowledge of the Universe and Trade, London: T.N., 1671 (128 pp. leatherbound)

This book can be considered the rarest of all notable books having to do with the subject of gems written in English. When Tavernier was in Geneva he met with Samuel Chappuzeau and gave him many notes. Tavernier then departed for his 6th and last voyage. Chappuzeau, thinking Tavernier would never return, published the notes under his own name in 1665, in Geneva. This English edition was done by Hobart Kemp later in 1671. Both editions predate Tavernier's own first French edition of 1676. ("Histoire des Joyaux, Chappuzeau, 1665")

References:

- "The Curious Lore of Precious Stones" by G.F. Kunz, 1913, p 17.
- "The Journal of Gemology", April 1947, p. 32-33.
- "Travels in India by Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, by Valentine Bull, 2nd ed, 1925, edited by William Crooks, vol. 2, p. 366-371.
- "Philosophical Transactions", vol. 2, 1667, pp. 429-436.

T H E

P R E F A C E .

Here is nothing more admirable in this lower World then *Precious Stones*, seeing they are the Starres of the Earth, and shine in competition with those of the Firmament, disp

A 2 ting

The Preface.

ting with them for splen-
dor, beauty, and glory.
Nature produceth no-
thing more rich, and suf-
ficiently confesseth it, in
her most careful laying
them up and hiding them
in her private Cabinets
and Repositories in the
inner parts of the Earth,
so that they are not easie
to be come by; but their
value and price make
them worth the searching
for, even through the
bowels

The Preface.

bowels of the World. Amongst these the Diamond very well deserveth the first place, and surpasseth all in brightness and hardness, and cannot be wrought upon but by it self; the Blood of a Goat, contrary to the Opinion of the Ancients, having no power at all over it. The Ruby, whose lively Colour, and whose Fire, pierceth the Darkness of the Night, comes next

The Preface.

the *Diamond*, and there
be divers sorts of them.
The *Emerald* with its
lovely green delights our
sight : After these come
the *Amethyst*, the *Saphyr*,
the *Turcois*, *Sardonix*,
Chrysolite, *Hyacinth*, *O-
pale*, and others which
deserve a particular e-
steem. The Sea hath
likewise her riches as well
as the Earth, she gives
us *Pearl*, *Coral*, *Amber-
gris*, and *Yellow*, all which
serve

The Preface.

serve for Ornament, and
are of considerable use in
Physick. The Beast also
do enclose riches in their
bowels, and the *Bezoar*
for its great commendati-
on it receiveth, may ve-
ry well be ranked with
Precious Stones. *Indico,*
Silks, Sal Armoniac, Gum
Lacca, Salpeter, and o-
ther such like things, are
not the least Causes of
Admiration, Metals,
and chiefly Gold and Sil-

The Preface.

ver; currant now-a-dayes in most parts of the World, the repose and torment of Mortals, their evil and welfare do hold likewise a considerable place amongst the Wonders of Nature, and should make us so much the more admire our Creator.

We have divers Authors both Ancient and Modern, who have written of the nature of all these

The Preface.

these things, of their properties and use. But I have known none who have taken the care to observe exactly either the places whence they draw them, or how they are discovered, or their prices, or how they are prepared by any infallible Rule; of *Diamonds*, *Pearls*, and *Rubies*, in proportion to their quality and weight, which I find in my Opinion very

The Preface.

ry worthy the inquiry of the Curious : for if we take delight to observe the situation of the Stars, and seek out the source of a River , I find no less pleasure to discover a Mine , to trace its Veins, and to know precisely those places of the Earth where the *Diamonds* are found , and where they fish for *Pearl* ; and this is that which this History doth discover : For indeed

The Preface.

deed the *Diamond* is only produced in *Asia*, and that but in a little corner of it; the *Ruby* in a Kingdom on the other side *Ganges*, little frequented by *Europæans*; the *Emerald* in *Peru* a Region of *America*; the *Turcois* in *Persia*; the *Pearl* only in a few Seas of the *East* and *West*; the *Coral* in the *Streights*; *Yellow Amber* upon the Coasts of *Prussia*; the true *Bezoar* only

The Preface.

only in the Indies , and so of the rest. In all these Inquiries I have laboured upon very good Observations and the nearest Relations of the most Famous Travellers of our Time ; and this Work ought so much the rather to Be received , by how much it seems to be seasonable , and shews the ways to those precious Mines of *Asia* , which hitherto have not been well

The Preface.

well known, and of those
fertil Regions into which
our most Powerful King
hath a desire to establish
Commerce, for the be-
nefit and glory of his
Subjects.

A

A Table of the Chapters contained in this Treatise.

CHAP. I.

of Diamonds, where mention is made

1. *of the Places from which they are brought.*
2. *of the Manner how they seek for them.*
3. *Of the Knowledge of them and their price by a certain Rule.*
4. *Of the wayes to come to the Mines,*
5. *Of the Kinds of Gold and Silver in the Indies.*

CHAP. II.

of Coloured Stones, where mention is made

1. *Of the Places whence they are fetched.*
2. *Of the Price of Rubies.*
3. *Of Emeralds and the ancient Error touching their Bigness*

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

of Pearls, where mention is made

1. Of the Places where they are fished.
2. Of the manner how they fish for them.
3. Of their different Qualities.

CHAP. IV.

of Coral, where mention is made

1. Of the Places where it is found.
2. Of the manner and time of fishing for it.

CHAP. V.

of Yellow Amber, where mention
made

1. Of the Place where the Sea casts it out.
2. Of the manner how it is collected.
3. Of the Places where the greatest Traffick is for Coral and Amber.

CHAP. VI.

of Metals, Ambergris, Bezoar, Indico, and other rich Productions of the East and West. ▶

THE

THE
HISTORY
OF
Jewels.

CHAP. I.

of DIAMONDS.



S the Diamond
is the most rich
production of
Nature, and
most prcou s of all Jew-
B els,

els, so is it likewise the most Noble of all Commodities. Yet men do not enough admire it, because they know not the difficulties which must be incurred with in digging it out of those places where it is formed, and freeing it from the gross matter that covers it. No man hitherto has exactly discoursed of this matter, or ventured to treat of it, but onely upon relations, uncertain and of slender credit. But I have drawn this History from the most curious Observations

tions of the most famous Travellers of our Age, whom I have discoursed with in divers places, and who have particularly busied themselves in the research of the Mines that afford the Diamonds and other Stones of colour; in which to speak true, they have omitted nothing, but have added remarks worthy to be transmitted to Posterity.

I. Let me therefore tell you, That none has been yet able in all the World to discover more

than five places , from whence the Diamond is brought , viz. two Rivers and three Mines.

The First of the two Rivers is in the Isle *Borneo*, under the Æquator, on the East of the *Chersonesus* of Gold, and is call'd *Succadan*. The Stones fetched from thence are usually clear and of a good Water , and almost all bright and brisk , whereof no other reason can be given , but that they are found at the bottom of a River amongst Sand which

is pure, and hath no mixture or tincture of other Earth, as in other places.

These Stones are not discovered till after the Waters which fall like huge Torrents from the Mountains, are all passed, and men have much to do to attain them, since few persons go to traffick in this Isle ; and forasmuch as the Inhabitants do fall upon Strangers who come ashore , unless it be by a particular favour. Besides that , the Queen does rarely permit any to transport them ; and so soon as

ever any one hath found one of them they are obliged to bring it to her. Yet for all that they pass up and down, and now and then the Hollanders buy them in *Batavia*. Some few are found there , but the largest do not exceed five Carats , although in the year 1648, there was one to be sold in *Batavia* of 22 Carats.

I have made mention of the Queen of *Borneo* , and not of the King , because that the Isle is alwayes commanded by a Woman, for that People , who will have

have no Prince but what is legitimate, would not be otherwise assured of the birth of Males, but can not doubt of those of the Females, who are necessarily of the Blood Royal on their Mothers side, she never marrying, yet having alwayes the Command.

The second River is in the Kingdom of *Bengala*, and is called *Nage*, by the Name of a great Town, the Seat of a Prince, equally distant from *Ougoulin*, *Pepeli*, and *Balacor*, fifteen dayes journey from all three. This

Province hath a *Raja*, or a Duke in our Language, who is an Idolater, as are all his Subjects. This *Raja*, as also the Kings of *Visapour* and *Golconda*, are Tributaries to the *Great Mogol*, and have been his Subjects, but took occasion to revolt from him, whil'st they saw him busied against the Tartars. 'Tis from hence that the three Mines of Diamonds whereof I shall speak being found in the Countries of these Princes, are ordinarily said to be found in the Territories of the *Great Mogol*.

These

These Diamonds then are discovered in the Sand of a River, at the bottom and upon the Banks, after that the great Floods are passed, just as in the River of *Borneo*. They are fair, for the most part pointed, brisk, high, bright and large, and what we call now-a-days of the Old Rock. But they are hard to come by, because the River affords but very few, and the Inhabitants hold them at an high rate; and that which renders them still more rare, is the perfidiousness of those who

who sell them , who lay
 wait in the Woods for the
 Merchants who buy them,
 and fall upon them. Beside
 that, the Prince doth cruelly
 tyrannize over the poor
 people who come to search
 for them. In the year 1657
L'Escot of *Orleans* ventured
 to go thither , by reason that
 he had learned that the *Raja*
 had a Diamond of 42 Carats,
 he was courteously received
 by the Prince, who shewed
 it to him and had a mind to
 sell it him , upon condition
 that *L'Escot* would pay for
 it in ready money : but the
 other

her having bargained be-
re-hand and desiring they
ould deliver him the
one, and receive the mo-
ey for it in any City of the
ealm of *Bengala*, which
e Prince should like best,
here the Hollanders had
Bank , the *Raja* would
ot consent thereto , and
e other went his way with-
ut buying of it. An Hol-
ander hath since got it from
an unknown hand.

The first of the three
Mines from whence they
etech the Diamond, is in the
Land of the King of *Visa-*
pour

pour in the Province of *Canatica*, eight dayes journe
 from *Visapour* and five fro
Golconda. 'Tis but 20
 years since it was discove
 ed , and the City roun
 about which it lieth
 is called *Raoconda*. The
 Stones are found in the
 ground and on the Rock.
 Those which are taken from
 the Rock or the place
 thereabouts, are commo
 ly of a good water. But
 for those which are take
 from the Earth, their water
 is somewhat of the Color
 of that Earth where they are
 foun

ound, so that if the Earth
be clear and a little gravel-
y, the Diamonds will be of
good water ; and if it be
at and black , or of an o-
ther Colour , they will like-
wise have some of the tin-
ture of the same.

But if there be any Black
or Red Sand amongst the
Earth , the Diamond also
will have some of it. The
Stones which are got from
thence are for the most part
Lasques , it is not because
they are taken out so from
the Earth , but it is because
being stounded by the blow
of

of the Lever that hits again
the Rock , to dig out the
Gravel that is in the Vein
where the Stone is found
they assume an Ice just as
Glass that is crackt ; now to
remove it and make it clear
they cleave it , and then
are the Stones they call
Lasque Stones , or *Flea
Stones* ; the which the In-
dians know better how to
perform than we , especially
as to the business of cut-
ting or cleaving , and finding
the thread of the Stone .
Now if there remain any
small point , they get it made
with

with little fosses , to the
end that the standing out of
the fosses may cover the
bruise or flaw ; the truth is,
if the Stone be clear , they
do no more but polish it a-
bove and below , and shape
it not, for fear of diminishing
any thing from its weight.
There are alwayes more
than an hundred and fifty
Mills that work , and they
put not above one Stone
upon each wheel , till such
time they have found the
way of the Stone , they
water it incessantly , and
when it begins to run , they
take

take oil; their Wheels are of
the bigness of our ordinary
Plates, and each Wheel hath
its Woman to turn it. The
Trafick for Stones is free in
paying two *per Cent.* to the
King of whatsoever is sold,
and no body dares do the
least wrong to Strangers.
You may there see Children
of ten or twelve years old in
the Streets with ~~their~~ ^{the}
Weights at their Girdle, ex-
pecting the Miners, in hope
to buy of them what Stone
they have by stealth conve-
ned away. In the Evening
these Children meet to

ther ; and setting the cyfrant price upon each Stone they have bought , do divide the profit of it amongst them, and sell it all again to the great Merchants , who by little and little make large Collections. They match the Waters , and mix therewith alwayes some Stone that has a point or flaw, which they cannot remove. They put their whole confidence in Strangers, especially the *Francks* , whereof very few come thither , and place such confidence in their faith, that they leave them sometimes great quantities of Dia-

monds of great value fifteen dayes together, without coming to see them , and by that means affording them all the leasure they can wish to consider well their marchandise , so that it is their own fault if they be cheated in it.

The second Mine is called *Coullour* in the Persian Language , and the Idolaters of the Countrey call it *Gany*. This is a large Town , near a great River , and they dig from the River to a Mountain about two Leagues from thence , and in the Mountain it self. This Mine hath been

been discovered but within
 50 or 60 years, and is the
 place where they find the most
 part of the great Stones, where-
 as before that time they rarely
 met with any above twelve
 Carrats; but that at this day
 some are to be seen of threes-
 core, an hundred, and of
 two hundred Carrats, *Mirgi-*
mola Chief Minister of State,
 and General of the Armies of
 the King of *Golconda*, a man
 of great parts, much believed
 of his Master, who gave him
 the Title of Prince of Princes,
 though at length he proved a
 Traitor, presented the Great

Mogol, to whose side he turned, with a vast Stone of Nine hundred Carats in weight: yet being full of flaws, it was reduc'd to 300 by Hortensis a Venetian Lapidary, who cut it, but could not do it so well, but there remained a flaw in it, which makes it something unhandsom. 'Tis also to be observed, that just as at the Mine of *Visapour*, the Stones in this also do partake of the quality of the Earth from whence they are brought; so that if the Earth be marshy and moist, the Stone inclines to black; if it be reddish, the

Stone

Stone inclines to be red ; if you
 from the Town to the Moun-
 tain there is great difference
 of Mould ; and upon the
 greatest part of these Stones,
 after they are cut, there ap-
 pears alwayes as it were a piece
 of grease, which makes you
 ever and anon put your hand
 to your Handkerchief to wipe
 it off. We will observe by
 the way that whereas we make
 use of the day to examine
 rough Stones, and to judge
 well of their water, and of
 the points that may be found
 therein, the inhabitants of
 the Countrey make use of the

night , and in an hole which they make in the Wall a foot square, where they put a Lamp with a great Match , holding the Stone in their Fingers between their Eyes and the Lamp, they make an estimate of the water and clearness of the Diamond. We must not forget that the Celestial water (as they call it) is of all waters for a Diamond most unpleasing, and that it is impossible to know it so long as the Stone is rough ; but after that it is a little discovered upon the Wheel , the infallible secret to judge well of its water , is to carry

carry it under a Shady Tree, for under its green shade you may easily discover if it be blew. Formerly there have been reckoned at this Mine Sixty thousand Miners and upwards, but in the year 1660 there was not a Stone scarce worth looking upon, and not above Three thousand Laborers in the Mines, all the rest being dead with hunger and misery; for each Miner has but Five Crowns a year, and they are certainly the most miserable people upon Earth. The Land is also very barren, and if it could but produce Pulse, the

people would not trouble themselves to gather Diamonds. Those who pay the Miners , make them work as much as they please , and take as much as they please of the Earth: without searching it ; but after they have begun to search into it , they owe to the King a Pagode, which is worth two Crowns of our Money , for the whole time till they cease to work.

The Third and last Mine was discovered in the year 1448 , two days journey from Raikonda , and the place is called Gazerpoli ; the Stones

there are very clear and of a good water, but cannot be ground but with the Stones of the same Mine: Otherwise, if they should make use of Stones of another Mine, these last would be bruised: They are likewise apt to break upon the Wheel, and they who are not vers'd in the knowledge of Stones, may easily be deceived in them. A Portuguese retiring to Venice, was desirous passing by Legorn, to sell one of those Stones which he had, for which they offered him Twelye thousand Crowns; he would not part with it at that

that rate, and bringing it to *Venice* to get it cut, it broke upon the Wheel into fifteen or twenty pieces.

Besides these two Rivers and three Mines, there be also some other Mines towards the Cape of *Comorin*, of which I will make mention in a few words. In the year 1652 the *Nababe*, who is as the Grand *Visier* in *Turkey*, the *Etma-doulet* in *Persia*, and Constable in *France*, and the same *Mir-gimola* of whom I spoke even now, was at the Siege of *Indecote*, a very strong place in the Province of *Carnatica*, by rea-

reason of its situation ; which he took notwithstanding in two Moneths time. There were some French in his service ; yet more English and Hollanders , who had deserted their Colours and come over to him , all able Gunners ; the poor wretches of the Countrey having never heard the noise of these Engins , were quite surpris'd at it , and rendered themselves forthwith to their discretion. *Indecote* is 35 days journey from *Masse-lipatan* , inclining towards the Cape of *Comorine* , and 16 from *Golconda*. This is one of

of the fairest and best Countreys of all the Indies, and every where all the Countrey is green, full of Rivers and Lakes, to water the Land where need requires. It was during this Siege that they brought to *Nababe* a great number of Diamonds of the six Mines he had caused to be digged towards the Cape of *Comorin*: yet there was ne're a Stone of a good water, they were either yellow or black: and after that *Nababe* had viewed them, he forbade them to dig any more; and gave order that these people should

should return to their labour, by which they brought more profit to the King than by working in the Mines ; being they found not one good Stone there.

2. I come now to the manner of finding the Diamond, and especially, how it is performed in the Mine of *Coulour*. The Miners sink a Pit of about fifteen or twenty foot square , and throw the Earth about it upon a clean place , almost of the same largeness , raising a little wall of a foot and half , to keep

up the earth and water which they cast in there ; after this they wash and stamp and tread the earth with their feet in two or three waters , to the end that all the fat and muddy earth may run through the holes made in the wall , and that there remain nothing but sand . The sand being dry , they beat it with Pestles of Wood , that they may better perceive and discover the Diamonds ; heretofore they made use of Instruments of Stone , but they left them so soon as ever they were perceived to cause flaws in the Diamonds .

At length they sit them down all on a-row upon the earth in the posture of Taylors, and seek out with all acurateness the Stones amongst the sand. Whil'st they be at this exercise, several Commissioners stand up with their eyes fixed upon the Workmen, for fear least when they find a Stone, they should swallow it cunningly down. When a Miner has found a big one, he runneth to the Master, who set him on work, to receive his reward for it, which is ordinarily a piece of Linnen of a Crown value.

3. We are now to touch upon the price of Diamonds in proportion to their weight, which is not the least considerable article of this Chapter; and although some have written copiously of this Subject, and set down what Rules ought to be observed, yet here I also present a very easie and most certain one in favour of the curious.

Some imagine that the Indians and Merchants who employ Workmen in the Diamond Mines, are ignorant of these Rules, as also of all Arithmetick, but without reason.

son; for on the contrary they are so experienced therein, that having the Rules alwayes in their head, there is not the least young boy of fifteen years of age who is not able to give an account on the sudden, without Pen or Paper, of the most difficult question that can be put to him.

Besides, as it is more difficult to judge of the water of a Stone, and of the points and flaws that may be found therein, when it is rough than when it is wrought; these Indians shew themselves much more knowing than we do to know

the price of any Stone what-soever, which they are able to tell presently, by calculating with themselves without Pen or Chalk, which is enough to make their sagacity to be admitted; this is then the Rule they make use of as well as we, They take a Stone of 10 Carats, which they multiply by the number of 10, the Product whereof is 100. Afterwards they consider the Stone, whether it be clean and perfect, or if there be any defect in it; if it be perfect, say they, if we had one Stone perfect of one Carat only

onely in weight, it would be worth for example according to its perfection, from 40 to 60 Crowns: If the water of it be not good, or if there be any flaw or ice, in a Stone of one Carat of the same nature, it would not be worth for example above from 10 to 30 Crowns; then they multiply again the aforesaid product of 100, by so much as they judge the Carat worth; and that which is the product of this, is the price of the Stone proposed. Let this then be the example of a perfect Stone of 10 Carats; at the rate of 60 Crowns the Carat: This

10

10

100

60

6000

This an example of a Stone
of 15, which may have some
imperfection, at 20 Crowns
the Carat.

15

15

75

15

225

20

4500

The

The Indians have the same Rule, onely they transpose the multiplication; for they multiply first of all the price of a Carat of the Stone propounded by the number of Carats it weighs, and the product again by the number of the aforesaid Carats. Let this be the Example following.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10 \\
 \times 60 \\
 \hline
 600 \\
 \times 10 \\
 \hline
 6000
 \end{array}$$

and it is now time to

do Another Example.

Amount of Capital	1000	1000
Interest at 5% per annum	50	50
Profit on 300	15	15
Gold and silver	15 do	15 do
	300	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		4500

4. For the satisfaction of such as would go to the Mines, we must speak also something of the ways that lead to them; which modern relations, somewhat fabulous, make so dangerous.

getous and difficult, and re-
present them to us pestered
with Tygers, Lyons, and Cru-
el Men, but Travellers have
found the contrary, except-
ing onely some Wild Beasts,
the Inhabitants being courte-
ous to Strangers. As for Gol-
conda, he must be very little
acquainted with the Map, who
knows not the situation of it;
but from Golconda to the
Mines, the way is less known,
they measure the ways there
by the Gos, one Gos making
four French Leagues.

They reckon from Golconda to
Carnapour,

From Canapour to Parquel,

Gos $2\frac{1}{2}$.

From Parquel to Caquenol,

Gos 1.

From Caquenol to Canol-Condonor,

Gos 3.

From Canol-Condonor to Jet-
tapour,

Gos 1.

From Jet-tapour to the River,

Gos 2.

This River is upon the
 Frontiers of the Kingdoms of
Golconda and *Visapour*.

From the River to Alpour,

Gos 2 $\frac{3}{4}$.

From Alpour to Canol, Gos $\frac{3}{4}$.

From Canol to Raolconda,
 where the Mine is, Gos $2\frac{1}{2}$.

So

So that in all from *Golconda* to the Mine, it is about 15
Gos, which comes to 60 French
Leagues.

From *Golconda* to the Mine
of *Conllour* or *Gani*, by the
same *Gos*, they count *Gos* $13\frac{3}{4}$,
which is 55 French Leagues;
this is the way,
From *Golconda* to *Almaspindc*,
Gos 3.

From *Almaspindc* to *Kaper*,
Gos 2.

From *Kaper* to *Montecour*,
Gos $2\frac{1}{2}$.

From *Montecour* to *Naglepar*,
Gos 2.

From

From Naglepar to Eligada,
Gos $\frac{1}{4}$.

From Eligada to Sarvaron,
Gos I.

From Sarvaron to Mellazeron,
Gos I.

From Mellazeron to Ponocour,
Gos $I \frac{1}{4}$.

From Ponocour to Coullour or
Gany, there is only the Ri-
ver to pass.

5. It remains to speak of
the Pieces which are currant
in *India*, with which the Dia-
monds are bought, viz. Ron-
pies and Pagodes; a Roupie is
worth twenty eight pence of
our

our Money ; as for the Pagodes there be two sorts of them ; the new and the old ; the new are worth three Rox-pies and an half , and the old a Roxpie more . In the Realm of *Bengala* , in the Countrey of the *Raja* , being they are Tributaries to the *Grand Mogol* , Payments are made in Rox-pies . At the two Mines that are upon the Lands of the King of *Visapour* , about *Rakonda* , payment is made in new Pagodes , which the King gets stamped , because although he be tributary to the Great Mogol , he causeth his own money

ney to be coyned, a Priviledge which he hath above the King of *Golconda*, of which I shall speak hereafter. These *Pagodes* rise and fall according to the course of Trade, and according as the Merchants do bargain with the Princes and Governors. At the Mine of *Coullour* or *Gani*, which belongs to the King of *Golconda*, payment is made after the same manner in new *Pagodes*, which are valued as those of the King of *Visapour*; but they must sometimes be bought from 1 to 4 per Cent. more, the reason is because they are of the

the best Gold, and they will have none but such. These *Pagodes* are coyn'd by the English and Hollanders, who have had the Priviledge from the King by grant or by force, I know not; now those of the Hollanders being fairer than those of the English, the Miners love them better than the others; which is the reason why they are bought for more by 1 or 2 per Cent, yet being the Merchants are aware of this false opinion they are imposed upon by, and because these people at the Mines are rude and savage, and that at the

the best the ways are somewhat dangerous from Golcond to the Mint , they stay commonly at Goleonda , where the Merchants who cause them to dig , have their Correspondence , and whither they usually send the Diamonds which are to be paid for a such time in old Pagodes stamp'd long since with the Coyn of divers Princes who reigned in the Indies before the Mahumetans took footing there. Now these old pagodes are worth as (I said) four Roupies and an half , a Roupie more than the new ; which come

comes to six pence of our money more than a Ducat, though there be no more Gold in them than in the new ones, and weigh no more : the which might administer cause of wonder, if we did not know the reason, which is this, that the *Cherats* or *Money-Changers*, to oblige the King not to get them coyned over again, give him a great sum yearly, because they draw from thence a considerable benefit ; for the Merchants do not receive any of these *Pagodes*, without having one of these *Money-Changers* to examine them, some

some of them being defaced, others of low rate, others which are not weight; and there ought to be allowed a quarter *per cent.* for what they want. When you pay the Miners, they receive not your *Pagodes*, but in presence also of the *Changer*, who certifies them of what is good or bad, and he again allows his quarter *per cent.* But to dispatch the sooner, when they would make any payment that is considerable, as a thousand or two thousand *Pagodes*, the *Changer* in allowing him his right, puts them up in a little

Bag, with a Bill of its mark, and when you would pay the Miner, you carry them to the *Cheraſ*, together with the Bag, and finding its mark entire, he assures the Miner that he hath examined the whole, and that he will be responsible for what is not good. Now as for *Roupies*, they take indifferently those of the *Great Mogol*, and those of the King of *Golconda*, because those which the King causes to be stamped, are to be according to the *Great Mogol's Coyn*, as is agreed upon between them. And to shew you that these

Indians have more wit and more subtilty than any one would think, the Pagodes being little pieces of thick Gold, of the bigness onely of the nail of the little finger, and it being upon that account impossible to clip them, they have the art to make little holes in them round about, from whence they may get two or three pence of the powder of Gold, after which they beat them down again handsomely, that it may not appear that any one has touched them. Moreover, when you buy any thing in a Village,

or when you pass a River; if you give them a Ronpy, they presently kindle a fire; and having cast it into it, if it cometh out white, they take it; if it cometh out black, they restore it to you again; for all the Coyn in the Indies is without Allay, and if any of it be brought thither out of Europe, it must be carried to the Mint to be new coyned. We must adde, that those people are deceived, who do imagine that it sufficeth to carry Looking-Glasses to the Mines, or Tobacco and such like Toyes, to truck them

for Diamonds ; our Travellers find the quite contrary, and they desire there the best and fairest Gold.

Besides, it is a thing undeniably, that as Gold is the most heavy and richest of all Metals, so is the Diamond the most hard and most precious of all Stones ; and it is a *Vulgar Error* of Ancient Authors, to believe that the Diamond may be softened by the Blood of a Bull ; which is contrary to the experience of Lapidaries.

To conclude, and to forget nothing in this Chapter,
'tis

'tis to be observed , That the Diamond in the Miners Language is called *Iri* , and in Turkish, Persian, and Arabian, 'tis called *Almas* , but in all the Languages of Europe there is no other Name besides *Diamond*. I come to Coloured Stones, and particularly to the Ruby and the Emerald, which hold amongst Jewels a very considerable place.

CHAP. II.

Of Coloured Stones.

THERE are discovered but
two places in the In-
dies from whence they
bring Coloured Stones, viz.
in the Realm of Pegu and in
the Island of Ceylan. The first
is from a Mountain about 12
dayes journey from *Ava*, incli-
ning to the N. East, which
they call *Capelan*, and it is the
Mine from whence they
bring the greatest quantities of
Rubies and *Espinelles*, other-
wise

wise Mother of Rubies , Yel-
low Topazes , Blew and White
Saphires , and other Stones of
different Colours , amongst
which they find also some of
divers Colours , yet very ten-
der , which they call *Bacan* in
that Countrey Language , *Si-
ren* is the City where the King
of *Pegu* hath his Residence ,
and *Ava* is the Port to his
Countrey ; from *Ava* to *Siren*
they go up the River in great
Flat-bottomed Boats , in which
Voyage they spend at least
thirty dayes . They cannot
go thither by Land , because
of the thick Woods full of

Lions, Tygers, and Elephants, and in a word it is one of the poorest Countreys in the World. Nothing comes thence but Rubies, and not in so great quantities as is believed, seeing that every year there comes not out to the value of an hundred thousand Crowns, and amongst them you'll very rarely find a Stone of four or five Carrats that is fair, considering the Prohibition against exporting any parcels which the King hath not seen, who keepeth the good ones, if he findeth any; so that there is a considerable profit in bringing

ing one of them out of Europe into *Asia*: from whence we may judge whither the relation of *Vincent le Blanc* be true, wherein he boasts to have seen some as he entered into the Countrey of the bigness of Eggs.

2. The price of *Rubies*, which cometh next the Diamond in dignity, goes thus:

They weigh them by the *Rati*, and one *Rati* maketh $\frac{1}{3}$ of our Carrát.

A Ruby at the Mine of the weight of one *Rati*, hath been bought for old *Pagodes* 20.
Of

Of 2 Rati	Pagod 100.
Of 3 Rati	Pagod 250.
Of 4 Rati	Pagod 500.
Of 5 Rati	Pagod 900.
Of 6 Rati	Pagod 1500.
Of 7 Rati	Pagod 2300.
Of 12 Rati	Pagod 12000.

The second place of the Indies from whence they bring Stones of Colour, is in a great River of the Isle Ceylon; they are found in the sand at low water, three or four moneths after the rains have past, and the poor people are employed in seeking for them. The Stones which they ordinarily find

find there are clear, more lively than those of Pegu, and of a very high colour, especially the Topaz. As for Granats and Chryſtal they find a great quantity of them. At such time as Don *Philippo Maserini* was Gouvernour of thole places which the King of Portugal had in the Isle of Ceylon, the Chief of which was *Columbo*, he who since was Vice-Roy of Goa, he caused all the Moveables of his Chamber to be made of Chryſtal, viz. Bed, Chairs, Table, Cabinet, &c.

Tis true that in Europe there are also two other places from

from which they bring Stones of Colour, that is to say, from *Bohemia* and *Hungaria*; from this they bring Opales, and in the other there be Rubies, which they take out of the middle of certain Flints after they be broken; these Flints are like to the Stones of Fire-locks inclining towards red, some as big as the fist, some less; but many of them may be broken before you find one Rubie. When the Son of the Emperour Ferdinand 2. was crowned King of *Bohemia*, General *Wallenstein* presented the Governour of

Raab at Prague with a great Basket full of these Flints, to the number of above two hundred: This Lord caused some of these to be broken, but not finding more than one small Ruby of the weight of half a Carrat, he made them leave the others unbroken.

The curious Reader will not find it tedious, to know further from whence they fetch the *Lapis* and *Granate*, I cannot tell the reason why they have given the Name of *Syrien* to this, seeing it was never found in *Syria*, but far from thence

thence thirty days journey from *Lahor* to the North East, in the Countrey of a *Raja*, who depends neither of the *Great Mogol* nor of the *Tartar*, in a Mountain, the Southern part whereof produceth Gold; that which respects the North, produces the *Granat*, and the East part affordeth the *Lapis Lazuli*, for the *Turkoise* every one knoweth that it is found in *Persia* in the Province of *Chamaquay*, the chief place whereof is *Mascbec*, to the North of *Hispaham*, towards *Candahar*. There are there two Mines, one they call

the

the *Old Rock*, the other the *New*; those of the *New* are but of a bad blew, inclining to white, and little esteemed, and it is free for any man to take as many of them as he pleafeth. But the King of *Perfia* some years since forbad the digging in the *Old* for any besides himself, because having no Goldsmiths but such who work in thread, and are wholly ignorant how to enamel upon Gold, as people who know neither the design nor manner of it, they make use for the garnishing of their Swords and Ponyards and other

other Works of these Turkis-
ses, instead of enamel, and
cause them to be cut and set in
the Bearit of Kings, according
to the Flowers and other Fi-
gures that do best please him.
This sheweth well enough and
is elaborate, but without any
curious Design.

'Tis an ancient error of ma-
ny to believe that the *Eme-
rauld* is found in the East, and
because before the discovery
of the *West Indies* none could
guess otherwise of it, still to
this day the greatest part of
Jewellers and Goldsmiths, so
soon as ever they spy an *Eme-
rauld*

rald of an high colour inclining to black , are wont to say it is an *Oriental Emerald* ; wherein they are altogether mistaken , since that the *East* never produced any such. I grant that before the discovery of *America* , the *Emeralds* were brought from the *East* , but they caine from the source of the *West-Indies* , from the Realm of *Peru*. For these people before we knew them , did traffick in all the *Molucco Islands* , whither they brought Gold and Silver , yet more Silver than Gold , being that there is more profit in the

one than in the other , by rea-
son of the Gold Mines that are
found in the Eastern Parts.
Still to this day the same
Trade continues , and those
of Peru pass yearly to the Phi-
~~lippine~~ *Isles* with two or three
Vessels , whither they bring
nothing but Gold and a small
quantity of Emeralds ; and
as for the Emeralds , within
this few years they have left
carrying any thither , but send
them all into Europe . In the
year 1660 they afforded
them in the East for more than
twenty per Cent. cheaper than
they were valued at in France.

These

These Americans being come
ashore in the Philippines, those
of Bengala, Arabian, Pegu,
Goa; and other places, bring
hither all sorts of Linnen and
a number of Cut Stones, as
Diamonds and Rubies, toge-
ther with divers Works of
Gold, Stuffs of Silk and Per-
fian Tapestry.

But 'tis to be observed, that
they can sell nothing directly
to those of Peru, but to such
who reside in Manilla: they
can stand these again retail
them to the Americans; nay if
any one obtain permission to
return from Goa to Spain, by

the way of the South Sea , he will be forc'd to put out his money to interest at fourscore or an hundred *per Cent.* to the *Philippines* , without being able to buy any thing , and to do with it after the same manner from the *Philippines* to *New Spain* . Now this was the way of trafficking for *Emeralds* before the *West Indies* were found out , they came into *Europe* onely by this way and vast compass . Whatsoever was not good remained in that Countrey , and what was fair passed into *Asia* .

The Holy Scripture makes mention of the *Emerald*, as of a precious Jewel , and placeth it amongst the rich Stones that the High-Priest wore in his Ephod , and those which adorned the Walls of the *New Hierusalem*. Heretofore the *Emerald* has been had in great esteem , and came after the *Pearl* : Now-a-dayes none makes so much account of it, in regard of the great quantities are brought every year from the *Indies*. The truth is men so much account of rare things , that they quite undervalue such as they perceive

the way of the South Sea , he will be forc'd to put out his money to interest at fourscore or an hundred *per Cent.* to the *Philippines* , without being able to buy any thing , and to do with it after the same manner from the *Philippines* to *New Spain* . Now this was the way of trafficking for *Emeralds* before the *West Indies* were found out , they came into *Europe* onely by this way and vast compass . Whatsoever was not good remained in that Countrey , and what was fair passed into *Asia* .

The Holy Scripture makes mention of the *Emerald*, as of a precious Jewel, and placeth it amongst the rich Stones that the High-Priest wore in his Ephod, and those which adorned the Walls of the *New Hierusalem*. Heretofore the *Emerald* has been had in great esteem, and came after the *Pearl*: Now-a-dayes none makes so much account of it, in regard of the great quantities are brought every year from the *Indies*. The truth is men so much account of rare things, that they quite undervalue such as they perceive

common ; and I will relate to you a Story upon this account.

At the beginning of the discovery of the *Indies*, a Spaniard was in *Italy*, and demanding of a Lapidary the price of an *Emerald*, which he shewed him, he considering it very well, and finding it a goodly one, told him it was worth a hundred Ducats : Whereupon the Spaniard being very glad, carried him to his Lodgings, and shewed him a Cabinet full of them. The Italian, who saw so great a number of these *Emeralds*, told him that

as for those they were well worth Crowns apiece. Thus it fares with all things which the abundance makes cheap, and whereto rarity adds a price. Pliny amongst divers excellencies of the *Emerald*, says, that there is nothing more delightful nor recreative to the sight; and reporteth that *Lælia* a Roman Dame had Head-Cloaths and a Gown embroidered with Pearls and *Emeralds*, in which she laid out to the value of Four hundred thousand Ducats. But she might have had as many now-a-dayes for less than half the Money. Many

are found in several places of *America*, and the Kings of *Mexico*, who esteemed them very much, were usually wont to pierce their Nostrils, and there to hang an excellent *Emerald*; they put them also upon the Faces of their Idols. The places where they have found them, and where still to this day they find the great abundance, is the New Kingdom of *Granada* and *Peru*, near to *Manta* and *Portviel*, there is towards that place a Territory called, *The Land of Emeralds*, by reason of the great number known to be found

found there ; but hitherto this Region has not been fully conquered.

The *Emerald* is bred in Quarries, just as the *Chrystral*, and runs along , as it were making a Vein , and grows finer and finer, or thicker and thicker, by degrees.

We see some half white and half green, some all white, some quite green and most perfect ; some we may see of the bigness of a Nut and bigger , yet none come near the bigness and figure of the Plate or Jewel which is at *Genoua* , unless we believe *Theophrastus*, who

who allows four Ells in length and three in breadth to the *Emerald*, which the King of *Babylon* presented to the King of *Egypt*: And who doth further report that there was in the Temple of *Jupiter* an *Anglia* Needle or Pyramid, made of four Stones of *Emerald*, forty Cubits long, and in some places four Cubits broad; and that at his time there was at *Tyre* in the Temple of *Hercules* a great Pillar of *Emerald*, perhaps it was nothing else but a Green Stone that was a Bastard *Emerald*, to which they gave this Name falsly:

fally: As some say that certain Pillars of the Cathedral Church of *Cordoua* are of *Emerald* Stones, and were put there since the time it served instead of a Mosk to the Kings of the Moors, who reigned in those places. In the Fleet which came from the the *Indies* in the year 1587, there were two great Chests of *Emeralds*, from whence we may judge of the great quantity which is found in *America*. In a word, as there is nothing but the rarity that gives value to things, so the price of the *Emerald* would be much enhanced,

hanced, if it were as rare as
the Diamond.

CHAP. III.

Of PEARLS.

The *Pearl* hath been at all times so much esteemed, that the Gospel does not disdain by this to represent to us the Excellency of the Kingdome of Heaven, and it belonged formerly onely to Royal Persons to wear them ; without dispute 'tis one of the richest

pro-

productions of Nature, and if we believe the Naturalists, *Pearl* is engendred of the dew of heaven in those parts of the Earth where it is most pure and serene : And the Cockle opening at the first Rayes of the Sun to receive those precious drops, plungeth into the Sea with its booty, and conceives in its Shell the *Pearl* which resembles the heavens, and imitates its clearness ; this admirable *Pearl*, which men seek with so much industry : so that heaven does visibly contribute to its generation, and impresses the

the most Celestial Vertues and Qualities which Physick was ever able to boast of, and whereof she makes use for a Sovereign Remedy : yet for all that all the World does not agree as to this with the Ancient Naturalists , and the sequel of this Discourse will make appear that they are deceived in some things.

But before we speak of the manner how they fish for Pearl and of their different Qualities , we must make report of the divers places of the World where they are found.

First of all then they have discovered four Fishing Places for *Redd* in the East, the most considerable is performed in the Isle of *Bahren* in the Persian Gulph; the which appertains to the Sophy of Persia, who receives thence a great Revenue. While the Portugals were Masters of *Ormus* and *Mascati*, every Vessel which went to fish was obliged to take a Passport from them at a dear rate; and they maintained always five or six small Galleys in the Gulph, to sink those Barks which took no Passports; but at present they have

have no farther power upon those Coasts, and each Fisher payeth to the King of Persia not above one third of what they gave to the Portugals.

The second Fishing is over against *Bahren* upon the Coast of *Arabia Fælix*, near to the City of *Catif*, which belongeth to an Arabian Prince who commandeth that Province. The most part of the Pearls which are fished in these two places, are carried into *India*, because that the Indians are not so hard, but give a better price for them than we ; they are therefore

carried thither, the unequal, as well as the round, the yellow as well as the white; every one according to its rate: some of them also are sold at *Balsera*, and those which are transported into *Persia* and *Moscovy*, are sold at *Bandar* congue two dayes journey from *Ormus*. They fish twice in a year in the Moneths of *March* and *April*, and in the Moneths of *August* and *September*; the depth where they fish is from four to twelve fathoms, and the deeper the Oyster is found, the Pearls are the whiter, because the water is not so hot there;

there, the Sun not being able to penetrate so deep.

The third fishing is by the Isle of Ceylon, at a place which is called *Manar*; the Pearls which are found there, are of a good water but small, and the greatest do not surpass two Garrats, and it is seldom that they are found of that weight, but in recompence of this there is a great quantity of Seed Pearl fit to powder.

The fourth and last Fishing in the East is at *Japan*; the Pearls there are of a water white enough and heavy, but unequal: those of *Japan* sell them

them all to the Holland Company; for they make no account, as I shall let you know in order, of any jewel.

In the West are discovered five Pearl Fishings, the first is in the Island Margarita two and twenty leagues from the firm land; this Isle is thirty five leagues about and hath a good Haven towards the North; at the East point it is all encompassed with rocks: it is fruitful enough, but there is want of water: and the inhabitants go up into the Countrey to furnish themselves with it, yet there are great store of Cattel,

and it beareth Maize and other things necessary for those who live there.

The second Fishing was discovered in the year 1496, by the Isle of *Cubagua*, a league from the former, in the *Gulph of Mexico*; it is in ten degrees and an half of Northern Latitude, an hundred and three-score Leagues from St. *Domingo* in *Hispaniola*, and an hundred from *Santa Cruz*, one of the *Careeby Islands*, and four Leagues from the Province of *Aria*, which is part of the Continent; it is much less than *Margarita*, without

Cattell or any other thing which may serve for the sustenance of man ; particularly it wanteth water, but the inhabitants are furnished from the Continent, from a River called *Comana*, seven Leagues from New *Cadiz*. This Island *Cubagua* was discovered by that famous Genouese Christopher *Columbus*, who having perceived a small Boat with some Fishers in it, and a Woman who had three rows of fair Pearl about her Neck, said to his Companions, That he thanked God he had now discovered the most rich

Countrey in the World. He broke an Earthen Plate of divers Colours, and for a piece or two of it this Woman gave him weoy willingly a row of these Pearls, and for another Plate he received many others, and learned of the Indians the place, and manner of their Fishing for Pearls.

The third is at Comana, near the Continent.

The fourth is called Comasagoa, twelve Leagues from the former.

The fifth and last is at the Mts of St. Martha, threescore Leagues from the River La Huchel.

All

All the Pearls of these five Fishings are of a white water, weak, dry, faint, milky, or leady ; not but that they find some fair ones ; but they have not so live a water as those of the East ; in recompence they are great ones, in weight from eighteen to forty two Carrats, and are almost all of the shape of a Pear.

These Five Fishings, of which I have spoken, are all in the North Sea, but they find also great quantities in the South Sea, near to Panama, they are long rather than round, but not so fair as the

other, and ordinarily are somewhat black; for the Indians opened the Oyster by Fire, till *Vasques Nugnez* taught the Cacique to open them without it; and since they find the Pearls whiter. Experience teacheth us that Oysters change their places as well as other Fish, and that they pass sometimes to one side of the Island and sometimes to the other.

It is a considerable curiosity to know how they fish for Pearls, seven, eight, or nine men at most go in one Bark, two of which descend to the bot-

bottom of the Sea, six, nine,
or twelve fathoms doep. A-
boiu the Isles of Margarita and
Cabagua, the water is very
cold, but the greatest difficul-
ty in fishing, is holding the
breath under water, sometimes
a quarter of an hour or long-
er; and that these poor Slaves
may the better endure it, they
feed them with dry meats and
in a little quantity, avarice
putting them upon these absti-
nences; but besides this, they
use other expedients, they
put upon their Nose little Pin-
cers made of Buffalo's Horn,
which stoppeth their Nostrils:
they

they stiffe their Ears with Cotton Wool. Others hold Oil in their Mouths, especially those who cannot hold their breath long. Others hold their Mouth under their Arm-pits, and after that manner breath two or three times under water. There is a Sack of Stones or Sand tied to each of their Feet, to make them sink strait to the bottom, and another Bag tied about their Waste, to put their Oysters in; there is a Cord fastened under their Arm-pits, held by them who remain in the Boat, and they under water hold another

other Cord in their hands, which they draw, to give notice to those in the Boat, that they can now hold their breath no longer, and that they must draw them up quickly.

When they have found a thousand or two of these Oysters, they sell them at adventure, without knowing what is within them, the Meat of the Oyster is without relish, and of very ill digestion; and is so far from being so good to eat as the meat of our Oysters of *Spain*, or those of *England*, that the very Fishermen disdain them, and seldom eat

eat any of them. *Acosta* in the Fourth Book of his History, glorieth that he had eat of the Oysters; and found Pearls in the middle of them. When the night cometh, the Fishermen retire to the Island, and carry the Oysters home to him who employeth them. Upon the opening they find in some none, in others from one to six Pearls more or less, and in some great number of grains, which we call Seed-pearl. These Oyster-shells are within of a lively colour towards an Azure, they make Spoons of them and other Tays,

Toys, such as we call *Mother of Pearl*.

The *Pearls* are of very different forms, bigness, figure, colour, and polish, and differ also much in their price.

It was an error of the Ancients, as of *Isidorus* and *Albertus Magnus*, to believe that the *Pearl* was bred by the dew of heaven, seeing that they are fished out of the Sea so deep, as twelve fathoms; as also to think that there is but one found in an *Oyster*, seeing that in some there are five or six, in which *Pliny* also disagreeth with them, while he relateth

relateth what *Ælius Stilo* writeth ; how that in the war of *Jugurtha* they gave the Name of *Uniones* to all great Pearls ; and that he had seen four or five in one Oyster. It is true, that seldom two of the same form , greatness , and colour are found in the same Oyster ; and for this reason , as the same *Pliny* writeth , the Romans called them *Uniones*. When it happeneth that two are found which resemble one another perfectly , it increaseth their price very much ; and it may be those two famous ones of the Queen *Cleopatra* were

of this sort ; each of which were valued at an hundred thousand Ducats : with one of these that prodigal Princesse won the wager she laid with *Mark Anthony*, that she would spend above an hundred thousand Ducats at one Supper ; she dissolved it in Vinegar and drank it off at the latter end of Supper ; the other was cut into two pieces and carried to *Rome* to the *Pantheon*, to adorn the Statua of *Venus*.

The *Pearls* of those Oysters which stick to the Rocks, are greater than those which are in the Sand or Mudde ; and those

those which are found in the
Mudde incline somewhat to a
dark colour ; for the rest, as
the *Pearl* seemeth to depend
on the air as well as the water,
if in that time when the Oy-
ster breedeth the *Pearl*, the
air be cloudy , it inclineth to
be black ; if the sky be clear,
it is the whiter. The *Pearls*
grow by little and little in an
Oyster , as the Eggs in a Pul-
let , so that the greatest come
forward towards the orifice or
opening , while the small ones
remain at the bottom , until
they are brought to perfecti-
on. And lastly , the *Pearls*
grow

grow old and wrinkled , and by consequence become less beautiful , by losing of their lustre.

Scotland also produceth some *Pearls* , but such as are not of the value and beauty of the *Oriental Pearls*.

One curious and intelligent in these matters , furnished me with the following Rule for the price of *Pearls* according to their weight.

A Pearl weighing

1 Grain , is worth *1 Crown*.

<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>9</i>

*A Pearl weighing**1 Carat, is worth 16 Crowns.*

1	$\frac{1}{4}$	25
1	$\frac{1}{2}$	36
1	$\frac{3}{4}$	49
2	<i>Carats,</i>	64
2	$\frac{1}{4}$	81
2	$\frac{1}{2}$	100
2	$\frac{3}{4}$	121
3	<i>Carats,</i>	144
3	$\frac{1}{4}$	169
3	$\frac{1}{2}$	196
3	$\frac{3}{4}$	225
4	<i>Carats,</i>	256
4	$\frac{1}{4}$	289
4	$\frac{1}{2}$	324
4	$\frac{3}{4}$	361

A Pearl weighing

5 Carrats,	400
5 $\frac{1}{4}$	441
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	484
5 $\frac{3}{4}$	529
6 Carrats,	576
6 $\frac{1}{4}$	625
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	675
6 $\frac{3}{4}$	729
7 Carrats,	784
7 $\frac{1}{4}$	841
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	900
7 $\frac{3}{4}$	960
8 Carrats,	1024

CHAP. IV.

of CORALL.

Although that *Corall* and *Yellow Amber* are not ranked amongst Jewels, yet they very well deserve a place in this History, because both of them have something admirable in them, and serve for Ornament, nay some Nations have the same esteem for these as we have for Pearls and *Diamonds*. There will then be three things to consider in this Chapter, the Places where

where they fish for the *Coral*, the manner how they fish, and the Countreys where it is sold at the best rates.

First, There are three Fishings for *Coral* upon the Coasts of *Corsica* and *Sardinia*, one called *Argueil*, which is the best and fairest; the second called *Baza*, the third is near to the Island of St. Peter. That which groweth upon the Coast of *Corsica* is of the fairest colour and longest. Upon the Coast of *Africa* there are two other Fishings, that near to the Bastion of *France* and that of *Tabarca*. The *Coral* of this is

big enough and long, but of a pale colour. There is another Fishing upon the Coast of Sicily, near to *Drepanum*, the Coral of which is small, but of a very good colour. Another on the Coast of *Catania*, by Cape *Quiers*, where the Coral is thick and of an excellent colour, but the Branches are very short. There is also another Fishing in the Isle of *Majorca*, where the Coral is of the same nature with that of *Corsica*, so that the Coral, if not only, is chiefly found in the *Mediterranean Sea*.

Let us now come to the manner of Fishing for it: The Coral groweth under hollow Rocks, at the foot of which the Sea is deep, so that the Fishers proceed thus: They fasten cross-wise two great Pieces of Timber, and place a great Piece of Lead in the middle, to make them sink; afterwards they tie Hemp about the Timber, and wreath it about negligently to the thickness of an Inch; they tie to the Wood two Ropes, one hangeth at the Prow and the other at the Poop of the Vessel; and so as they run along

by the Rocks, they let go the Wood, and the Hemp windeth it self about the *Coral*. There is need many times of fifteen or twenty Boats to draw up the Pieces of Timber, but by plucking up the *Coral* thus by force, there falleth as much into the Sea as can be drawn out; and the bottom being ordinarily of Ouse or Mudde, the *Coral* is corroded continually, as if it were worm-eaten; so that the sooner it is drawn up, the less waste is made of it: some think *Coral* to be soft under water, though it be really hard;

hard ; yet true it is that at certain moneths of the year there is drawn from the end of the branch by pressing it , a kind of Milk , like that out of a Womans Breast , which may very well be the seed of the Coral , the which falling upon something or other in the Sea , accidentally produceth another branch of *Coral* , as it hath been really found upon a Skull and upon the Blade of a Sword.

The Fishing of *Coral* is performed from the beginning of *April* to the end of *July* , and commonly two hundred Barks and

and upwards are employed to that effect, seven men and a boy in each. They are built all along the Coast of *Genoa*, are very light, and bear so great sail, that no Men of War can bear up with them; and it is by this means they escape the Corsairs. The Fishing is performed forty miles along the Shore, over against certain Capes that jet out; where they presume there is Rocks under water. There was lately to be seen at *Marseilles*, in a Shop where they deal in *Coral*, a piece of the bigness of ones Fist, which they

they cut in two, because it was somewhat worm-eaten, and there was found within it a Worm which stirred, and lived some moneths , being put again into its hole. 'Tis observable that round about some branches of *Coral* there is bred as it were a Sponge resembling Cells, wherein there lie small Worms like Bees , so much Nature pleases her self in the diversity of her productions.

We must finish this Chapter by a pretty curious Observation: Those of *Japan* contrary to all the rest of the World, make

make no account of Pearls or Precious Stones, and all their Jewels consist in a grain of *Coral*. Now as they carry by their sides a great Bag, such as our Mechanicks wear, so is he the best man, that hath the biggest grain of *Coral* to slip in his Purse String of Silk; and to him who can bring them one of the bigness of an Egge, they will not onely give a thousand Crowns, but fifteen or twenty thousand, or whatsoever he shall demand. Moreover, throughout all *Asia*, and especially towards the North in the *Great Mogol's*

Mogol's Dominions, and beyond the Mountains of *Tartaria*, part of which hath lately conquered *China*; the bravery of the Common sort of People is of *Coral*, and they wear it as well about their Necks as upon their Arms and Legs; and so much for *Coral*.

C H A P. V.

Of *Yellow Amber*.

Yellow and *White Amber* are found no where in abundance, but only upon the

the Banks of *Prussia*, the Sea throwing it up time after time at certain Winds. The Elector of *Brandenbourgh* lets out all these Coasts, and the Farmers do there maintain Guards, who lie all along the Coast, to th' end none may take it away, which is very Criminal; the Sea casts up the *Amber* sometimes on one side sometimes on the other.

As I have made an Observation of *Coral*, in respect of *Japan*, so I must make another of *Amber* in respect of *China*. When any great Lord makes a considerable Feast,

to shew his magnificence and splendour , at the close of the Feast they bring into the Hall three or four Perfuming Pots , upon which they throw a large quantity of *Amber*, sometimes to the value of a thousand Crowns and upwards ; seeing the more there is burnt of it, so much the greater splendor it adds to him who treats. Besides they make use of it after this manner , because *Amber* thrown into the Fire, giveth a certain Smell which is not unpleasant , and because the Flame excels all other Flames. Hence it is that *Amber* is

is one of the best Merchandises that one can bring into *China*, and whereof the *Holland* Company does reserve to themselves the particular Commerce, the *Chineses* coming to buy of them in *Batavia*.

I leave to Naturalists to treat of the Proprieties of *Yellow Amber*, which is not the Subject of our Discourse.

CHAP. VI.

*Of Metals, Amber-gris,
Bezoar, Indico, and
other rich Productions
of the East and West.*

Although nothing that appears in this Title may come into the List of Jewels, any more than *Yellow Amber* or *Coral*; yet I may touch upon them as things the most precious which we receive from the *East* and *West*.

Metals are like Plants hidden in the Bowels of the Earth,

and there is some resemblance between them in the manner of their production. Minerals have branches and a trunk from whence they grow, and great and small Veins, which are bound together, and do seem to imitate Vegetables. These Minerals are produced by the virtue and force of the Sun and the other Planets, and in a long space of time are increased and multiplied in these obscure Caverns; but there is this difference in the Earth which brings forth Plants, and that which produceth Minerals, that this is fat and

and fertile , for the nourish-
ment of that which it sendeth
forth ; but on the contrary the
other is rude and barren , like
the matter which it generates
within . Metals were created
for the use of Physick , for A-
griculture , and for the Defence
and Ornament of Man , not to
speak of the Species of Gold
and Silver , so necessary to the
entertaining of Society and
Commerce : Upon which one
understanding enough said ,
*That as a Father giveth a great
Portion to his Daughter , by that
means to provide her a more ad-
vantageous Match , so God hath*

given to the Earth great riches in Mines, to the end that Men might enquire into her with the greater care. Iron, Lead, Copper, and Tinne, are found in so many places of the Earth, that the *Americans*, who have divers Mines of them, neglect to dig them; I will not give these therefore any place in this discourse, and will content my self to say onely this, that there is great quantity of Copper in *Sweden*, that the best Tinne is brought out of *Cornwal* in the West of *England*; and that the *Peruvians* make use of no other Lead, Iron, or Copper,

per , but what is brought them out of Europe , although they have Mines of their own. I will speak therefore onely of *Gold* and *Silver* which are the most pretious of all Metals, and of *Quicksilver* , which serveth to refine them both. *Gold* is the richest of all Metals ; the heaviest and most malleable , that is to say , that suffers it self to be extended the most under the Hammer , and from all time Men have sought and loved the enjoyment of it . It is found in *Asia* in the Sand of divers Rivers , and for this *Ganges* and *Pactolus* have been

rendred famous in History ; and not to speak of *Tagus* and other Rivers of *Europe*, which carry *Gold* ; the *Arva*, which falleth from the Mountains of *Savoy*, and joyneth with the *Rhone* near *Geneva*, furnisheth *Gold* enough to recompence the pains of those who search for it ; but the abundance of *Gold* is found in Mines , and these Mines are not every-where , we have discovered but few in *Europe* ; *Scotland* hath some, and *Silesia* and *Hun-garia* , but they do not very much enrich their Masters : let us consider therefore the Mines of

of *Aethiopia* and *India*, and particularly of the Isle of *Su-matra*, which the Ancients called the *Chersonesus of Gold*. We may mention also the famous Mines of *Potosi*, which celebrate *Peru* above all the Regions of the Earth, and where so many Slaves are employed; for the Mines of Silver there are divers of them in *Europe*, and particularly in *Saxony*; there are of them also in *Asia*, but the Mines which are the most famous of all are in a Mountain of *Peru*, unknown to the *Tnca's* before the arrival of the Spaniards. This

Mine is so rich, that the Mine which *Hannibal* found in the *Pyrenæan Hills*, out of which, as *Pliny* reports, every day was drawn three hundred pounds of Silver, cannot be compared to it ; the description of this at large is to be seen in *Josephus Acosta* his *Natural History* of the *Indies* ; and for the manner of refining Metals, so many have written, that I may be excused from describing it : there resteth therefore no more but *Quicksilver*, which is found in a certain Vermillion Stone, great quantity of it cometh from the Mountain of *Guan-gavilca*,

gavilca, near to the City of *Gnamagua* in *Peru*; out of which they draw every year eight thousand Quintals of *Quicksilver*; there are also divers Mines of *Gold* and *Silver* in *Spain*, but the Inhabitants neglect to work them, contenting themselves with those which they have in the *Indies*.

Amber-gris is a Medicinal Liquor, full as odoriferous as the true *Balme*, but thicker naturally, and is brought into a Paste of a hot and good Perfume, which may be applied to wounds; it cometh not onely out of the *East-Indies* but

but *New Spain* doth also produce it , and the Sea casteth it up upon the Coast of *England* and *Ireland*.

Bezoar that famous Stone so well known in Physick, is found five dayes journey from *Golconda* , towards the East of *Summer* in the Province of *Renquery* , and is engendred in the Paunch of Goats , some of which have twelve Stones in them. The Inhabitants of the Countrey easily know how many Stones the Goat hath in his body by this means , they stroak the belly of the Goat with their hands and rub it, till the

the Bezoars come all to the bottom of the Paunch, and then they may be felt and counted like little Stones in a Bag. They sell them by weight, the bigger the Stone the dearer. In the year 1660 there were sold of them to the value of an hundred thousand Francks, and the greatest part fell to the English; there come also *Bezoar Stones* from the Kingdom of Macassar in the Isle of Celebes, at five degrees of Southern Latitude, near the Molucca's, but they are found in the bodies of Apes, and are not so large as those of Golconda.

Indico, which is made use of for the most rich Colours, cometh from a Tree which is planted every year after the rains are passed, and when it is grown to the height of between two and three foot, they cut it at half a foot from the ground, and then take that which is cut and put it into great Pits with Lime, which becometh so hard, that the Pits seem to be but one piece of Marble. These Pits are ordinarily about fourscore Paces about, they fill them half or a little more with water, and then continue to fill them with

the

the green of this Tree, and every day stir the whole till it settleth and becometh like to mudde or clay, or clay mixed with water; afterwards they let the whole stand for some dayes, and then let out the water of the Pits. When all the water is out, they take the mudde or settlement in their hands, and having steeped it in Oil, they form great or small pieces, according to their fancy, and drie them in the Sun. To deceive the Merchant, they set them sometimes to dry upon the sand, that so the sand sticking to them, they may weigh the heavers; but they pay well for it, when this deceit cometh to the knowledge of the Governour. This Tree is cut three times, but the oftner it is cut the *Indico* becometh of less value, and there is more than twenty in the hundred difference in the price, the latter giving

not so much colour as the first. The best *Indico* cometh from *Biana*, from *Indona*, and from *Corsa*, three Villages at a day or a day and halfs journey from *Agra*, and it is that which is made up into Balls. Eight dayes journey from *Srat* and two leagues from *Amadabat*, there is a Village called *Sarqueſſe*; from whence the flat diſtcometh; there groweth also *Indico* of the same nature with the last, and near the same price, in the Kingdom of *Golconda*: it is also brought out of the West, from the Isles of *amilles*, where they make it verily much after the same manner as in the East.

Salt peter cometh in great quantity from *Agra* and *Pitena*, from whence it is brought twenty dayes journey downe the *Ganges*, to a place where the English and Holland Merchants come to lade.

Great quantity of *Silk* cometh from *Bengala* and thereabouts, which is the best Countrey of *India*, there cometh also great abundance from the Province of *Gillon* or ancient *Hircania* in *Persia*, and from *Sicily*.

Gumme Lacca is brought from the Kingdom of *Bengala*, but the best cometh out of *Pegn*. A sort of Ants carry this Gumme and fasten it about wild Shrubs, from whence is made great quantity of Wax.

Sal Armoniac cometh from *Amdabat*, one of the greatest places of Traffick in the *Indies*, for Stuffs of *Gold* and *Silk*, as also Tapistry and other Works as beautiful as in *Persia*, but their Colours hold not so long. There cometh also from thence great quantity of Linnen, of Painted Cottons, which are cartied into *Persia*, *Arabia*, to the *Abissines*, to the *Red Sea*, to the Isles of