

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**  
Conducing to the knowledge of the  
*UNIVERSE* and *TRADE*.

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L O N D O N,  
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*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

PREFACE.

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

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## *The Preface.*

ting with them for splendor, beauty, and glory. Nature produceth nothing more rich, and sufficiently 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

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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* , *Opale* , and others which deserve a particular esteem. The Sea hath likewise her riches as well as the Earth , she gives us *Pearl* , *Coral* , *Ambergris* , and *Yellow* , all which  
serve

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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 commendation it receiveth, may very well be ranked with *Precious Stones*. *Indico*, *Silks*, *Sal Armoniac*, *Gum Lacca*, *Salpeter*, and other such like things, are not the least Causes of Admiration, *Metals*, and chiefly *Gold* and *Sil-*

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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

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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

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## *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

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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 *Europœans*; 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

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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

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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.

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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
Jewels.

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CHAP. I.

*of DIAMONDS.*



AS the Diamond  
is the most rich  
production of  
Nature, and  
most precious of all Jew-  
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 incoutried 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

### (3)

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.

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

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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

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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

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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'ft they saw him bufied againft the Tartars. 'Tis from hence that the three Mines of Diamonds whereof I fhall fpeak being found in the Countries of thefe Princes, are ordinarily faid 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. Besides  
 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-  
 nder hath since got it from  
 n unknown hand.

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

*pour* in the Province of *Cannatica*, eight dayes journey from *Visapour* and five from *Golconda*. 'Tis but 20 years since it was discovered, and the City round about which it lieth is called *Raolconda*. The Stones are found in the ground and on the Rock. Those which are taken from the Rock or the place thereabouts, are commonly of a good water. But for those which are taken from the Earth, their water is somewhat of the Colour of that Earth where they are found.

ound, so that if the Earth  
 be clear and a little gravel-  
 ly, 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  
 Glafs that is crackt ; now to  
 remove it and make it cleave  
 they cleave it , and these  
 are the Stones they call  
*Lasque Stones* , or *Flint*  
*Stones* ; the which the In-  
 dians know better how to  
 perform than we, especial-  
 ly 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 fossets , to the  
end that the standing out of  
the fossets 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 Traffick 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 Weights at their Girdle, expecting the Miners, in hope to buy of them what Stones they have by stealth conveyed away. In the Evening these Children meet to

ther ; and setting the curreant 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-

C

monds

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 *Conllowr* 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, whereas before that time they rarely met with any above twelve Carrats ; but that at this day some are to be seen of three-score , an hundred , and of two hundred Carrats , *Mirgimola* 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 Carrats in weight: yet being full of flaws, it was reduc'd to 300 by *Hortensius* 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; for from the Town to the Mountain there is great difference of Mould: and upon the greatest part of these Stones, after they are cut, there appears 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 *Rablonda*, and the place is called *Gazerpoli*; the Stones there

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 desir'd, passing by Legorn, to sell one of those Stones which he had, for which they offered him Twelve 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 *Etmal-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 *Massipatan* , 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 *Coul-lour*. 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

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 writ 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, to know  
 D the

the price of any Stone whatsoever, which they are able to tell presently, by calculating with themselves without Pen or Chalk, which is enough to make their sagacity to be admired; 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 onely

only 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 aforefaid 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

(36)

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.

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

**Another Example**

$$\begin{array}{r}
 15 \\
 20 \\
 \hline
 300 \\
 15 \\
 \hline
 1500 \\
 300 \\
 \hline
 4500
 \end{array}$$

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

gerous and difficult, and represent them to us pestered with Tygers, Lyons, and Cruel Men, but Travellers have found the contrary, excepting onely some Wild Beasts, the Inhabitants being courteous to Strangers. As for Golconda, 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  
 Canapour, Doy 1.

From *Canapour* to *Parquel*,  
Gos  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

From *Parquel* to *Caquenol*,  
Gos 1.

From *Caquenol* to *Canol-Condor*,  
Gos 3.

From *Canol-Condor* to *Jettapour*,  
Gos 1.

From *Jettapour* 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 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 *Almaspinde*,  
*Gos* 3.

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

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

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

From

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From Naglepar to Eligada,  
Gos  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

From Eligada to Sarvaron,  
Gos 1.

From Sarvaron to Mellazeron,  
Gos 1.

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

From Ponocour to Coullour or  
Gany, there is onely 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.* *Rou-  
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 *Roupees* and an half , and the old a *Roupee* more. In the Realm of *Bengala* , in the Countrey of the *Raja* , being they are Tributaries to the *Grand Mogol* , Payments are made in *Roupees*. At the two Mines that are upon the Lands of the King of *Visapour* , about *Ralconda* , 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 *Golconda* to the Mine, 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 at 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 *Ronpies* and an half, a *Roupie* more than the new; which

comes

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 *Chercks* 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

Bag, with a Bill of its mark, and when you would pay the Miner, you carry them to the *Cheraf*, 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

(51)

or when you pass a River, if you give them a *Roupy*, 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 Travel-  
lers find the quite contrary,  
and they desire there the best  
and fairest Gold.

Besides, it is a thing unde-  
niable, 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 Lapi-  
daries.

To conclude, and to for-  
get nothing in this Chapter,

'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 *Emerauld*, which hold amongst Jewels a very considerable place.

## CHAP. II.

*Of Coloured Stones.*

**T**Here 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, Yellow  
 Topazes, Blue and White  
 Sapphires, and other Stones of  
 different Colours, amongst  
 which they find also some of  
 divers Colours, yet very ten-  
 der, which they call *Bagan* 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  $\frac{1}{8}$  of our Carrát.

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

Of 2 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 100.
Of 3 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 250.
Of 4 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 500.
Of 5 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 900.
Of 6 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 1500.
Of 7 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 2300.
Of 12 <i>Rati</i>	<i>Pagod</i> 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 Mascorini* was Governour of those 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 a Chamber to be made of *Chrystal*, viz. Bed, Chairs, Tables, 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* inclininig 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 *Wallestein* presented the Governour of *Raab*

*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 *Labor* 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 *Maschec*, to the North of *Hispahan*, towards *Candabar*. 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 pleaseth. But the King of *Persia* 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 Turkoises, instead of enamel, and cause them to be cut and set in the Bearit of Kings, according to the Flowers and other Figures that do best please him. This sheweth well enough and is elaborate, but without any curious Design.

'Tis an ancient error of many to believe that the *Emerald* 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 *Emerald*

*rald* of an high colour incli-  
ning 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 disco-  
very of *America*, the *Eme-  
ralds* were brought from the  
*East*, but they came 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  
F one

one than in the other, by reason of the Gold Mines that are found in the Eastern Parts. Still to this day the same Trade continues, and those of *Pern* pass yearly to the *Philippine 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 thither all sorts of Linnen and a number of Cut Stones, as Diamonds and Rubies, together with divers Works of Gold, Stuffs of Silk and Persian 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 buy and 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

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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 *Chrystal*, 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 *Genova*, 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 *Ægypt*: And who doth further report that there was in the Temple of *Jupiter* an *Auglia* 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 falsely:

falsly. As some say that certain Pillars of the Cathedral Church of *Cordona* 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 *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.

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CHAP. III.

*Of PEARLS.*

**T**He *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 ingendred 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 imitateth 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 *Pearl* in the *East*; the most considerable is performed in the Isle of *Babren* in the *Persian Golph*; the which appertains to the *Sophy* of *Persia*, who receives thence a great Revenue. While the *Portugals* were Masters of *Ovinnis* and *Mascati*, every Vessel which went to fish was obliged to take a Passport from them at a dear rate; and they maintained alwayes 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 Fœlix*, 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  
 carri

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 *Ormuz*. 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 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 Cattel

Cattel 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 Cadis*. 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  
 brokē an Earthen Plate of di-  
 vers Colours, and for a piece  
 or two of it this Woman gave  
 him vey 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 *Coma-  
 agote*, twelve Leagues from  
 the former.

The fifth and last is at the  
 Isle of *St. Martha*, threescore  
 Leagues from the River *La  
 Hubel* 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  
 G 4 other,

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. About the Isles of *Margarita* and *Cubagua*, the water is very cold, but the greatest difficulty in fishing, is holding the breath under water, sometimes a quarter of an hour or longer; 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 abstinences; but besides this, they use other expedients, they put upon their Nose little Pincers made of Buffalo's Horn, which stoppeth their Nostrils: they

they stufte 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 Toys,

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 disagreeeth 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 encreaseth 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 *Oyster* 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 *Pullet*, so that the greatest come forward towards the orifice or opening, while the small ones remain at the bottom, until they are brought to perfection. And lastly, the *Pearls* grow



## A Pearl weighing

1 Carrat, is worth 16 Crowns.

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  25

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  36

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  49

2 Carats, 64

2  $\frac{1}{4}$  81

2  $\frac{1}{2}$  100

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  121

3 Carats, 144

3  $\frac{1}{4}$  169

3  $\frac{1}{2}$  196

3  $\frac{3}{4}$  225

4 Carats, 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.

**A**Lthough 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 *Corfica* 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 *Corfica* 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 onely, 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 Leggs; and so much for *Coral*.

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## CHAP. V.

### *Of Yellow Amber.*

**Y**ellow and *White Amber* are found no where in abundance, but only upon the  
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the Banks of *Prussia*, the Sea throwing it up time after time at certain Winds. The Elector of *Brandenbourg* lets out all these Coasts, and the Farmers do there maintain Guards, who lie all along the Coast, to the 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 unpleasent, 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.*

**A**Lthough 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,  
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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 vertue 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 nourishment 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 Agriculture, 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 advantageous 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

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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 everywhere , we have discovered but few in *Europe* ; *Scotland* hath some, and *Silefia* and *Hungaria* , but they do not very much enrich their Masters : let us consider therefore the Mines  
of

of *Æthiopia* and *India*, and particularly of the Isle of *Sumatra*, 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 *Ynca's* before the arrival of the Spaniards. This

Mine is so rich, that the Mine which *Hannibal* found in the *Pyrenean 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 ingendred 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

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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 *Molucka'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 heavier; 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 *Corfa*, 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 *Sirat* and two leagues from *Amadabat*, there is a Village called *Sarquesse*; from whence the *Indico* cometh; there groweth also *Indico* of the same nature with the last, and near the same price, in the Kingdom of *Galconda*: it is also brought out of the *West*; from the Isles of *Antilles*, where they make it verry much after the same manner as in the *East*.

*Saltpeter* cometh in great quantity from *Agra* and *Pittena*, from whence it is brought twenty dayes journey down 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 *Pegu*. 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 *Amadabat*, 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 carried into *Persia*, *Arabia*, to the *Abissines*, to the *Red Sea*, to the Isles  
of