

PYRITOLOGIA:

OR, A

HISTORY

OF THE

PYRITES,

THE

Principal BODY in the MINERAL KINGDOM.

In which are considered its Names, Species, Beds, and Origin; its Iron, Copper, unmetallic Earth, Sulphur, Arsenic, Silver, Gold, original Particles, Vitriol, and Use in smelting.

The whole compiled from a Collection of Samples; from visiting Mines; from an intercourse and Correspondence with Naturalists and Miners; but chiefly from a Course of Chymical Enquiries.

With a PREFACE, containing an Account of the Advantages arising from Mine-works in general, and particular from those of *Saxony*.

Translated from the *German* of

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Mart-stein is another denomination of *pyrites*, and far from being attended with any impropriety; as its etymology may be deduced from *Mars*, or iron, and this fossile is principally an actual iron-stone.

Vulcan, the god of fire, being under great obligations to the *pyrites* for his best fuel, as appears from those huge elaboratories in mounts Hecla, Ætna, and Vesuvius, the subject of our present enquiry has been honoured with the title of *Hephesticus*, or *Hyphestionus*.

As iron makes a principal part in the composition of the *pyrites*, *sideritis*, *sidheicus*, iron-stone is no inadequate appellation; nor, if its igneous qualities are duly attended to, can *pyropus*, *pyrobolus*, *pyrimachus*, terms used by some of the antients to signify the same thing, be thought very improper.

Othonna, according to Gesner, is a copper-coloured ore in Egypt, which Aldrovandus takes to be the same with *lapis luminis*, and Aristotle's *pyrimachus*:—*Atrament-stein*, or vitriol-stone, has also been numbered among the denominations of *pyrites*; but of this last appellation more hereafter.

Corallus, coral-stone seems to be misapplied, when appropriated to *pyrites*, seeing though the rock wherein it lies is often found red, the genuine *pyrites* never exhibits that colour.

Chalco-pyrites is an useful distinction of the copper sort: nor is the *assius lapis*, or as Agricola expresses it, *Asiæ lapis sive lapis ex Asia, ubi nascitur sarcophagus*; that is, where the flesh-consuming stone grows, altogether improper, as the corrosive power of vitriol is well known.

But it is high time to have done with mere names; let us proceed to what it is hoped will afford more real instruction, which, to the utmost of my ability, is intended in the succeeding chapters.

C H A P.