

which are perfectly well wrought and well polisht. Those, that have tried them, find them very good, but they are only, the one of 10, the other of 8. foot. A good Astronomer told me, that they would bear a great *Aperture* in respect of their length.

I do not well know, what to say to yours concerning M. *Hewelius*. Mean while, the interest of truth, and the obliging manner, he has treated me with, engage me to answer him, in the matter of the *Comets*: I am perswaded, I shall convince him; but since he hath taken the *Illustrious Royal Society* for Judge, I accept that with all my heart.

*A Relation
Of the loss of the Way to prepare the Bononian Stone
for shining.*

Though several Persons have pretended to know the Art of preparing and calcining the *Bononian Stone*, for keeping a while the Light once imbibed; yet there hath been indeed but one, who had the true secret of performing it. This was an *Ecclesiastick*, who is now dead, without having left that skill of his to any one, as Letters from *Italy* and *France*, some while since, did inform. There is no substance, in Nature, known to us, that hath the effect of this Stone; so that (to the shame of the present Age) this *Phenomenon* is not like to be found any where, but in Books, except some happy *Genius* light upon the same or the like skill*.

[* It is hoped notwithstanding (which also a late Letter from abroad does hint) that some or other of the *Italian Virtuosi* at *Florence* have secured this Secret.]

*A Description
Of a Swedish Stone, which affords Sulphur, Vitriol,
Allum, and Minium.*

This was communicated to the *R. Society* by Sir *Gilbert Talbôt* Knight, a Worthy Member of that Body, as he had received it in *Denmark*, being his Majesties Extraordinary Envoy there; as follows,

THere is a Stone in *Sweden* of a Yellow Colour, intermixed with streaks of white (as if composed of Gold and Silver) and heavy, withal. It is found in firm Rocks, and runs in Veins, upon

upon which they lay Wood, and set it on fire. When the Stone is thus heated, they cast Water upon it, to make it rend, and then dig it up with Mattocks. This done, they break it into smaller pieces, and put it into Iron-pots, of the shape represented by *Figure C*; the mouth of the one going into the other. These they place, the *one* in the Oven upon an Iron fork *stōping*, so that, the Stone being melted, it may run into the *other*, which stands at the mouth of the Oven, supported upon an Iron. The first running of the Stone is *Sulphur*.

The remainder of the burned Stone is carry'd out, and laid upon a high Hill, where it lies exposed to the Sun and Air for the space of two years; and then taketh fire of it self, casting forth a thin blew flame, scarce discernable in the day time. This being consumed, leaveth a blew dust behind it; which the Workmen observe, and mark with wooden pins. This they dig up, and carry into the Work-house, and put it into great Tubs of Water, where it infuseth 24. hours or more. The Water they afterward boyl in Kettles, as we do Saltpeter, and put it into cooling Tubs, wherein they place crosse Sticks, and on them the *Vitriol* fastens, as Sugar-candy doth.

The Water, that remains after the extraction of the *Vitriol*, they mix with an eight part of Urin and the Lees of Wood-ashes, which is again boyled very strong, and being set to cool in Tubbs, crosse Sticks are likewise placed, and thereon the *Allum* fastens.

In the Water, which remains after the *Allum*, is found a Sediment, which being separated from the Water, is put into an Oven, and Wood laid upon it and fired, till it become red, which makes the *Minium*, wherewith they paint their Houses, and make plaister.

So far this Description; Which gave occasion to a curious person to call to mind, That there was a kind of Stone in the *North of England*, yielding the same substances, except *Minium*.