

II. *An Account of certain transparent Pebles, mostly of the shape of the Ombrixæ or Bron-tixæ : Wherefore I have called them Brontixæ Læves, Pellucidæ, Resplendentes, Adamantum Æmulæ.*

THE Figures are taken from certain very clear and transparent Stones found in *England*, of a constant Shape. They are called in some ancient Leafes of Royal Mines Rough or Mineral Pearl. They understanding, as I guess, by the Word Pearl, any thing that was resplendent and bright, and particularly figured like a Drop of Water, which these Stones have of themselves naturally, and without any Artifice ; some of them being exactly Spherical, others like a Half Globe, others like a Half Oval, with an edge raised on the top : And in these general Figures great Varieties are to be observed.

As for the Esteem the Ancients had of them, it was not without Reason ; for besides that, their natural Figure and Beauty, where they have been well preserved, is commendable. Their Natural Polish is moreover not to be counterfeited, but very easie to be distinguish'd by a Microscope, from the Artificial Polish of Glass and Crystals. Now Gold, Silver, Diamonds and Pearl are for no other reason estimable, but because they have certain indelible Characters, which all the Subtilty and Wit of Man hath not yet been able to Counterfeit, notwithstanding the many Pretences thereunto. As Gold, for Example, for that it will endure the drowning in Antimony ; Silver, that it abides the Test of Lead ; Diamonds, for that of themselves, even without a Foil, they cast a Lustre.

Lustre. Pearl is valued because of it's Figures and peculiar Brightness not to be imitated.

These Stones are of the *Pebble kind*, that is, not to be calcin'd by simple Fire; whereas most other figured Stones are calcinable with a very easie Fire.

These Stones are, as I said, naturally polish'd and very hard and solid, and do not consist within of *Laminæ* or Flakes, but brake every way with great Difficulty, and naturally throughout smooth.

As for their Figure, it comes nearest that of the *Ombriæ*; and many of them are very *Ombriæ* in shape. Other transparent *Ombriæ* I have seen, which yet are either very Flints, or of a flaky and soft Contexture, of the nature of *Selenites*; and such are to be found about *Filobriggs*, a noted Set of Rocks near *Scarborough*.

As these Stones are of a very different Nature and Texture from all other *Ombriæ* I ever yet saw, and having no *Vestigia* of any *Spinæ* in any part of them, I may reasonably enough conclude them to be Stones of their own kind: And they are in shape like some of the *Ombriæ*, yet for the Reasons above-said, they will not come, I think, within the suspicion of having been Animal Substances.

For the rest, I am not averse to think, after so manifest and considerable Discoveries of this kind, as *Augustino Scilla* had made in *Sicily*, that most of the *Ombriæ* have been *Echini*; and yet some of the Prickled, which Naturalists have hitherto called *Lapides Judaici*, may have belonged to some of those *Ombriæ*. But I persuade my self it will never be found, that any of them have ever belonged to any of the Stones in the present Table.

I shall conclude with one Remark, and that is, to incite the Industry of the Curious, to a more narrow search into these matters. There are but two or three *Echini* yet discover'd, either in ours or the *Mediterranean* Sea.

Sea. But of the *Ombria* of *Europe*, besides these present Anomalous Stones, there are at the least Twenty Species figur'd and describ'd by *Aldrovandus*, *Angustino Scilla*, *Dr. Plot*, &c. and in vast quantities in most Counties of *England*: And I doubt not many more Species will yet be found out. All which are to be accounted for; as to the natural places, in what Seas they are to be found at this day. And if not in the *European*, as I think they will not, how and whence they came hither into this Island in such Plenty. But enough of this.

Tours, &c.

*Crystalli quaedam, sive Echinite pellucidi Anglicani ex Silicium
generis, vel Sphaerici, vel ad Dimidiatam Sphaeram aliquomodo accedentes.*

