

[10] CATALOG OF LEVINUS VINCENT (1658-1727)

VINCENT, L. (1715) *Wondertooneel der Natuur, ofte een Korte Beschrijvinge zo van Bloedeloze, Zwemmende, Vliegende, Kruip-ende, en Viervoetige Geklaauwde Eijerleggende Dieren...bevat in de Kabinetten van Levinus Vincent.* Published in Amsterdam by Gerard Valk and Johannes van Leeuwen.

Levinus Vincent (1658-1727), a wealthy Dutch merchant and manufacturer, formed a large natural history collection described in this finely illustrated catalog. The first part provides a general description of the collections, and the second part gives detailed descriptions of the specimens. All three Kingdoms of Nature are covered, including a considerable number of mineralogical specimens, some of them well-crystallized and others considered very rare.

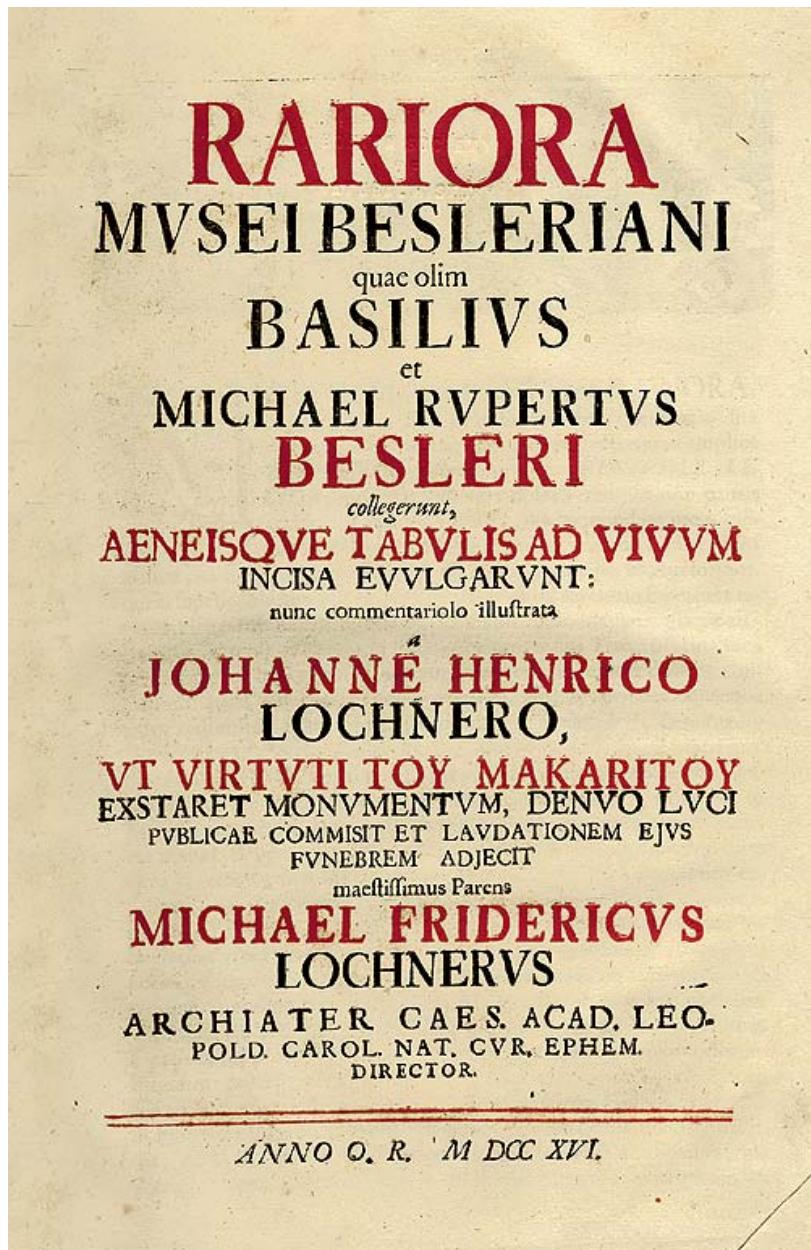
Vincent's collection, begun in 1674 by his brother-in-law, Anthony Breda, was one of the foremost *Wunderkammern* in Holland and was much admired by many distinguished visitors including Peter the Great and King Charles III of Spain. The catalog contains a spectacular view of the museum's spacious interior, drawn by the famous Dutch artist Romeyn de Hooghe and engraved by Andries Van Buysen (active 1704-1745). The double-page frontispiece shows the museum as it was set up in Haarlem in 1705. The remaining seven plates show individual cabinets and the contents of drawers, including one cabinet devoted to minerals, rocks and fossils.

Following Vincent's death the collection was sold to M.P. Bout, Deputy of the Province of Holland, and in 1779 it was dispersed at auction in the Hague. Many of the specimens were later illustrated in the works of Valentijn, Cramer, d'Argenville, Petiver and Knorr.

The copy illustrated here is volume two, published in 1715 (the first volume was published in 1706); 278 pages plus the folding frontispiece and seven numbered plates showing cabinets and open drawers. A later (1719), much shorter edition of 52 pages, with a title page in red and black, reprints and describes 11 plates from the original two volumes.



Levinus Vincent's spectacularly spacious collection room in Haarlem, Netherlands (1705).



[11, 12] CATALOGS OF BASIL BESLER (1561-1629)
AND MICHAEL RUPERT BESLER (1607-1661)

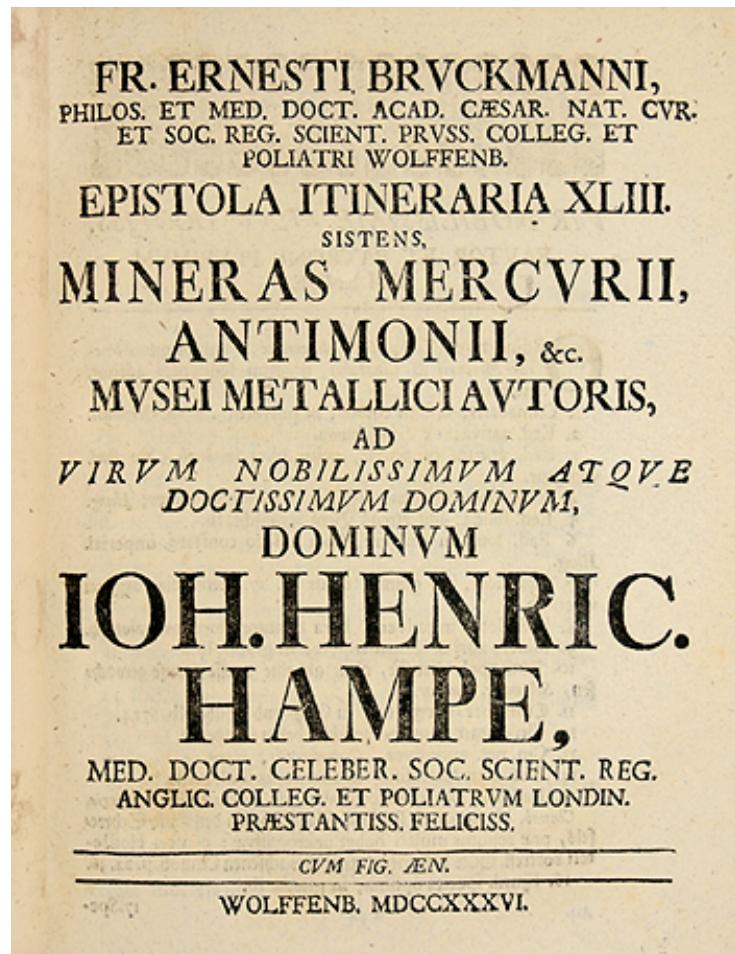
LOCHNER, M. F. (1716) *Rariora Mvsei Besleriani quae olim Basilivs et Michael Rvpertvs Besleri collegerunt...* Published probably in Leipzig.

BESLER, M. R. (1733) *Gazophylacium rerum naturalium, e Regno Vegetabili, Anamili et Minerali...* Published in Leipzig by Zedler.



Basil Besler and his nephew and heir, Michael Rupert Besler (a physician and pharmacist in Nuremberg), assembled one of the finest and earliest *Wunderkammern* in Germany. Like its Italian counterparts, it included objects from all three kingdoms of nature. Two catalogs were eventually issued. In 1642 Michael Besler prepared a folio-size catalog consisting of 34 engraved plates with captions, bestowing on the collection the wonderful term “gazophylacium” to mean a treasure-trove. Of particular appeal is the large engraved title page. The catalog was reissued in 1716 and 1733 (our copy).

A more elaborate catalog was assembled in 1716 by Johann Lochner, containing 40 smaller engravings of many more specimens of all kinds, along with a lengthy descriptive text of considerably higher scholarly quality than the bare-bones captions given in Besler’s first catalog.

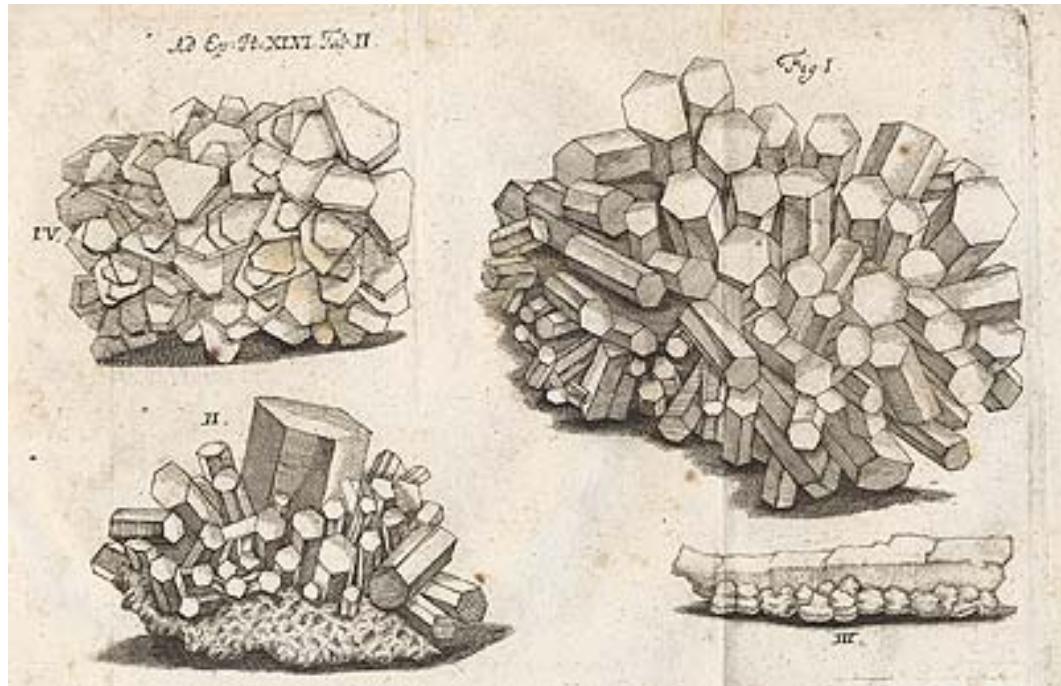


[13, 14] CATALOGS OF FRANZ ERNEST BRÜCKMANN
(1697-1753)
AND FRIEDRICH CHRISTIAN LESSER
(1692-1754)

BRÜCKMANN, F. E. (1735) *Museum Metallicum Autoris ad virum, nobilissimum clarissimum atque doctissimum Dominum Johann. Henr. Hampe* (and successive titles dedicated to other patrons).

<i>Epistola Itineraria XXXIX.</i>	Gold, silver. (1735)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XL.</i>	Copper minerals. (1735)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLI.</i>	Iron minerals. (1735)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLII.</i>	Tin, Bismuth and Lead minerals. (1736)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLIII.</i>	Pyrites, Mercury and Antimony minerals. (1736)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLIV.</i>	Cobalt, Zinc and Magnesium minerals. (1735)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLV.</i>	Salts and sulfurous minerals. (1735)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLVI.</i>	Talc, Spars, Calcite, Fluorite. (1736)
<i>Epistola Itineraria XLVII.</i>	Gypsum, Amianthus, etc. (1736)

<i>Epistola Itineraria LVII.</i>	Sciagraphium (“outline”) (1737)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LVVIII.</i>	Sciagraphium (“outline”) (1737)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LIX.</i>	Sciagraphium (“outline”) (1737)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LX</i>	Sciagraphium (“outline,” Artefactis) (1737)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXIV</i>	Fossils and dendrites (1737), (addressed to Sir Hans Sloane)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXV</i>	Belemnites (1738)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXXXI</i>	Metallic Minerals (1739)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXXXII</i>	Metallic Minerals (1739)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXXXIII</i>	Metallic Minerals (1739)
<i>Epistola Itineraria LXXXIV</i>	Metallic Minerals (1739)



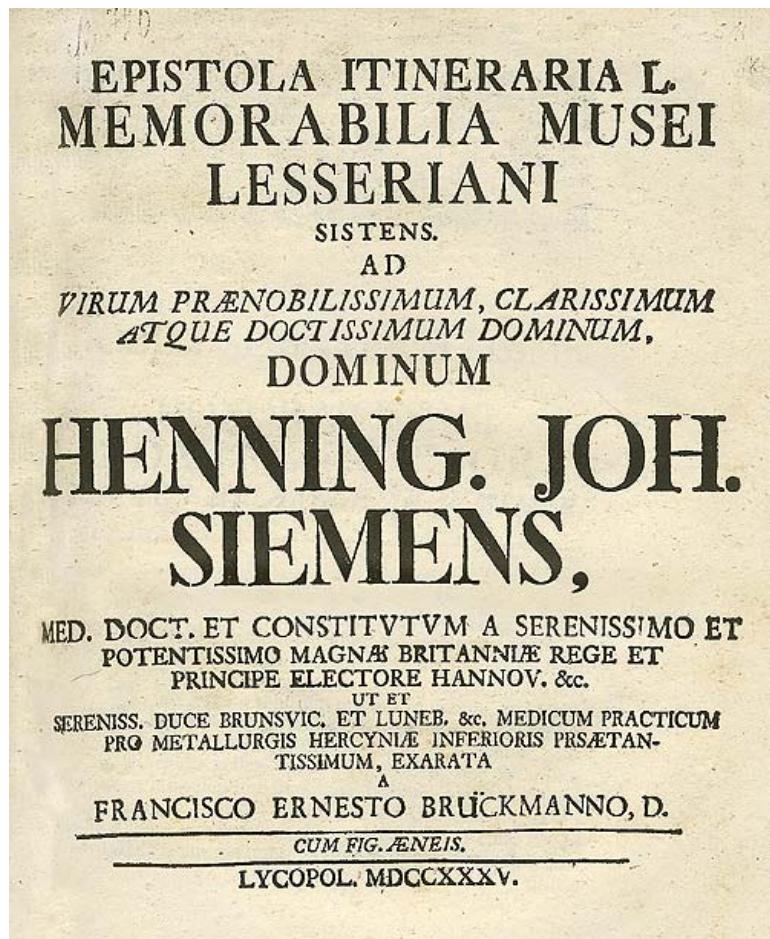
**Calcite specimens in Brückmann’s collection,
from “Sylva Hercynia” (the Harz Forest)**

Franz Ernest Brückmann (1697-1753) was a physician in Brunswick and Wolfenbüttel who published a number of works on mineralogical subjects, including catalogs detailing the mineral collections of important personages. He devoted 19 *epistola* or letters to the description of his personal collection of minerals, addressed to various patrons such as John Henry Hampe, a London physician and member of the Royal Society. His descriptions are particularly detailed for the time, distinguishing many subtle varieties and carefully recording their localities. Each letter (*epistola*) contains engravings depicting some specimens.

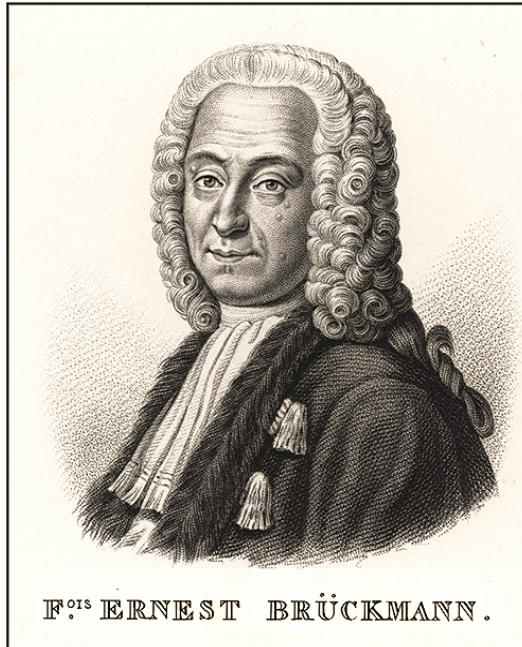
Bound with:

BRÜCKMANN, F. E. (1735) *Memorabilia Musei Lesseriani sistens. Ad virum
Prænobilissimum, Clarissimum atque Doctissimum Dominum, Dominum Henning. Joh.
Siemens.*

Epistola Itineraria L Memorabilia Musei Lesseriani (1735), 16 p. plus two engraved plates
Epistola Itineraria LI Memorabilia Musei Lesseriani (1735), 12 p.



The bound Brückmann volume illustrated here also includes Brückmann's *Epistola Itineraria L* and *LI* catalogs for the Musei Lesseriani – the collection of Brückmann's close friend Friedrich Christian Lesser (1692-1754), Pastor of the Frauenberge Lutheran Church in Nordhausen, Prussia; it was written at the behest of the physician Henning Johannes Siemens. The collection contains minerals, zoological specimens and plants. These two epistola on the Musei Lesseriani are very rare—no copies are recorded in the National Union Catalog or the British Museum (Natural History) catalog. The two plates depict shells and a slab of rock showing manganese dendrites. Brückmann was, incidentally, the godfather of Lesser's last child, Maria.

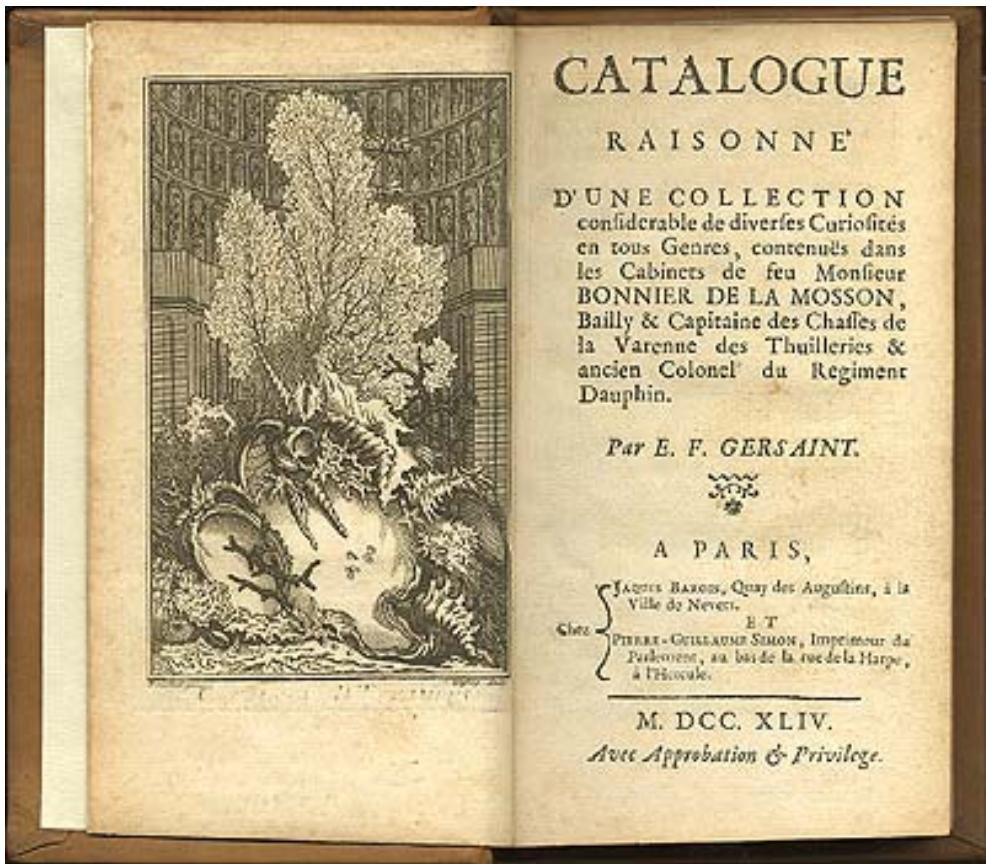




[15] CATALOG OF JOHANN CHRISTIAN KUNDMANN (1684-1751)

KUNDMANN, J. C. (1737) *Rariora Naturæ & Artis item in Re Medica, oder Seltenheiten der Natur und Kunst des Kundmannischen Naturalien-Cabinets*. Published in Breslau and Leipzig by Michael Hubert.

Kundmann's book is an account of the natural, artificial and medical wonders in his personal *Wunderkammer* of oddities and extraordinary objects gathered from many nations of the world. Included are minerals, gems, rocks, fossils and corals, as well as the typical plants and animals. Kundmann was a practicing physician in Breslau, Germany, and a medical official for that city; he was among the first researchers to collect comprehensive medical statistics relating to births and causes of death.. His catalog contains 16 full-page plates as well as numerous smaller engravings set within the text pages. A full-page plate is devoted to agates, and another to snowflake habits.



[16] CATALOG OF JOSEPH BONNIER DE LA MOSSON (1702-1744)

GERSAINT, E. F. (1744) *Catalogue Raisonné d'une Collection considérable de diverses Curiosités en tous Genres, contenus dans le Cabinets de feu Monsier Bonnier de la Mosson.* Published in Paris by Jaques Barois and Pierre-Guillaume Simon.

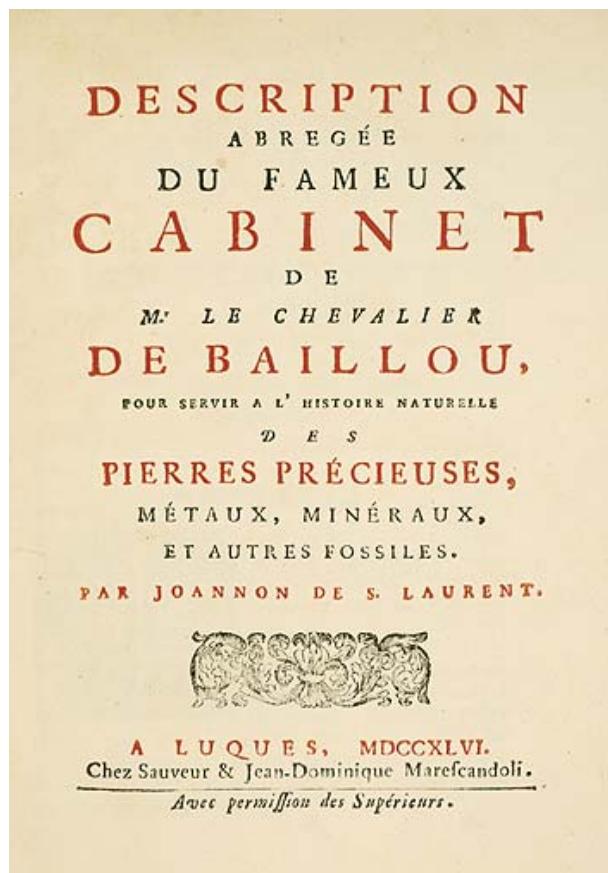
Bonnier de la Mosson was a wealthy French bailiff, Captain of the Hunt to the Varenne de Thuilleries family, Treasurer General of the state of Languedoc, and at one time a Colonel in the regiment of the Dauphin. His first catalog was published in Paris in 1737, seven years before his death, as a small duodecimo volume of 64 pages prepared by Edme François Gersaint (a prominent cataloger, collector and antiquary of the period). Immediately following Bonnier de la Mosson's death in 1744 Gersaint was commissioned by the family to prepare a second, enlarged catalog of 234 pages in octavo size to facilitate a sale. The collection contained specimens relating to mineralogy as well as anatomy, chemistry, pharmacy and drugs, various arts, animals, plants, shells and scientific instruments. The frontispiece engraving shows shells and corals in the foreground and three shelves of bottled, preserved anatomical and animal specimens in the background.



[17] CATALOG OF SIMON SCHYNVOET
(1652-1727)

POSTHUMUS, V. (1744) *Catalogus Musaei praestantissimi Fossilium omnis generis rarissimorum.* Published in Amsterdam.

Simon Schynvoet was a Dutch naturalist, engraver and garden architect, and a friend of Everhard Rumph, another prominent collector. Seventeen years after his death, his son-in-law who inherited the collection, an Amsterdam preparator, merchant and broker named Vincent Posthumus, assembled a catalog of the minerals (primarily gold, silver, copper, precious stones, jaspers, lapis lazuli, fossils and other items), in parallel columns of Latin and Dutch, to aid in its sale. A peculiar fold-out plate following the title page depicts a headstone-like monument apparently made by the late collector, emblazoned with a saying in Dutch (something having to do with desiring what has been bred in the bowels of the earth). It is titled "The Mineral Cabinet."

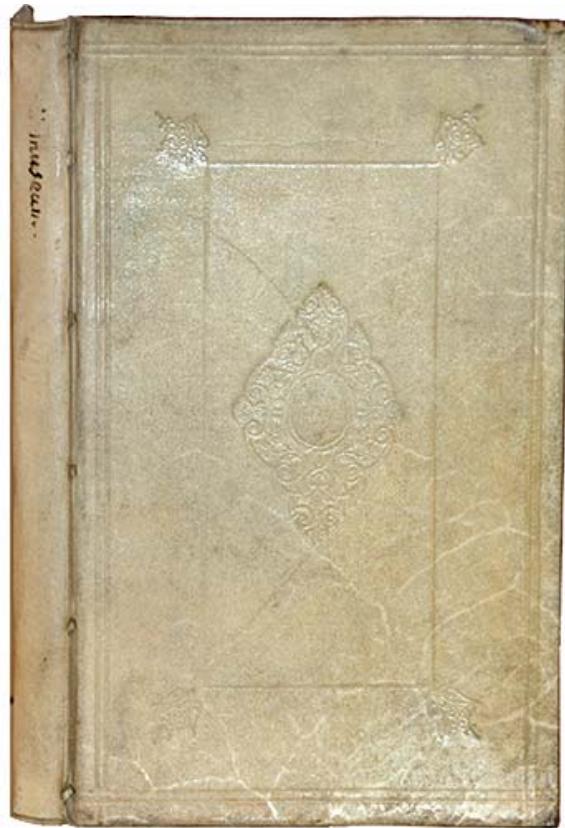
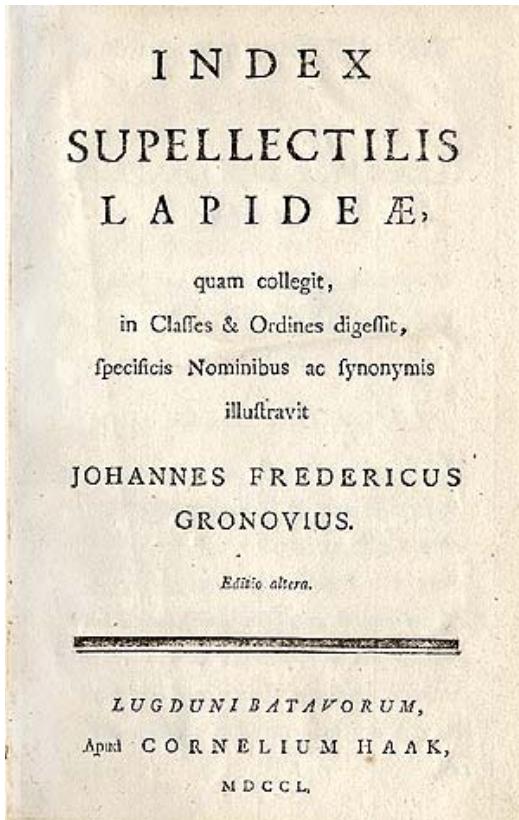


[18] CATALOG OF JOHANN VON BAILLOU (1679-1758)

ST. LAURENT, J. de (1746) *Description abrégée de fameux Cabinet de Mr. le Chevalier de Baillou pour servir à l'histoire naturelle des pierres précieuses, métaux, minéraux et autres fossiles*. Published in Luques (Lucca, Tuscany) by Jean-Dominique Marescandoli, and dedicated to the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

Baillou was a prominent Florentine naturalist who built an enormous natural history collection specializing in minerals, rocks and shells. At 30,000 specimens, it was among the largest in the world at that time. His small quarto catalog of just 156 pages could not hope to describe each specimen; instead it was more of a prospectus, discussing categories of specimens in general, probably with a view toward finding a royal buyer for the collection. If that was the purpose, it was successful, because two years later the entire collection was purchased by the Austrian Emperor Franz Stephan I, who moved the collection to the imperial capital of Vienna and brought Baillou along as its curator. When the Emperor died in 1765, Empress Maria Theresa presented the collection to the state and opened it as a public museum. Today it is part of the collection of the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

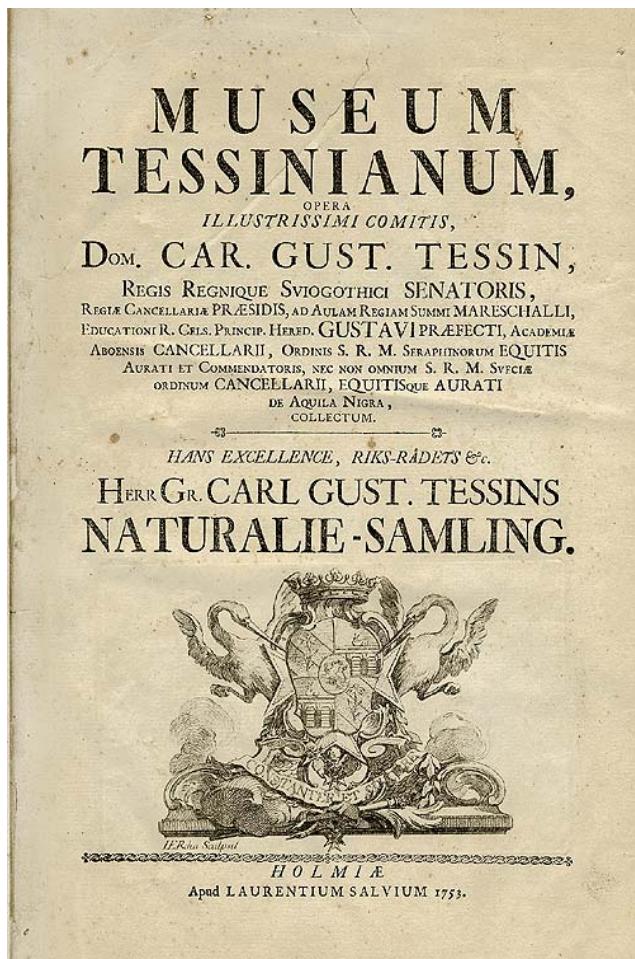
Baillou had originally planned to publish a complete folio-size catalog with handcolored plates, in several volumes, like that produced by Albert Seba. However, the Emperor was interested only in his personal, private enjoyment of the collection, and once he had purchased it from Baillou the idea of producing an expensive catalog was abandoned.



[19] CATALOG OF JOHANN FRIEDRICH GRONOV (1690-1760)

GRONOV, J. F. (1750) *Index Supellectilis Lapideæ. Quam collegit, in Classes & Ordines digessit, specisicis Nominibus as synonymis illustravit.* Editio Altera. Lugduni Batavorum, Apud Cornelium Haak. 112 pages.

This is the second edition of Gronov's orginal 1740 catalog; it was said to have been intended for use as an auction catalog. Johann Friedrich Gronov (1690-1760) was a physician in the Netherlands. His collection of "Lapideæ" included numerous American minerals, especially from Pennsylvania ("Pensylvanicum"), obtained from the American collector and naturalist John Bartram (1690-1777). He had many Swedish specimen obtained from Linnaeus, and German specimens from the well-known localities including the Harz Mountains. He also commissioned the Rev. William Borlase (1696-1772), a physician to the Rector of Ludgvan in Cornwall, to assemble a collection of minerals from Cornwall ("Cornbiensis") for him, and indeed many are represented in his catalog. Gronov regularly noted other collectors of his day as his sources for particular specimens, including Brückmann, Lawson, Amman, Heister, Henckel, Gaubii, Weitman, Collinson, Ghysbregts, Burmeister, Schwalbe, Holdernes, and Luycz-Massis. Gronov was familiar with the principal mineralogical authors and references, and cited them frequently when listing specimens. His collection may have been auctioned off or it may have been bequeathed to his son, Lorenz Theodor Gronov (?1730-1778), who also collected minerals and issued an auction catalog of his own, entitled *Museum Gronovianum*, in 1778.

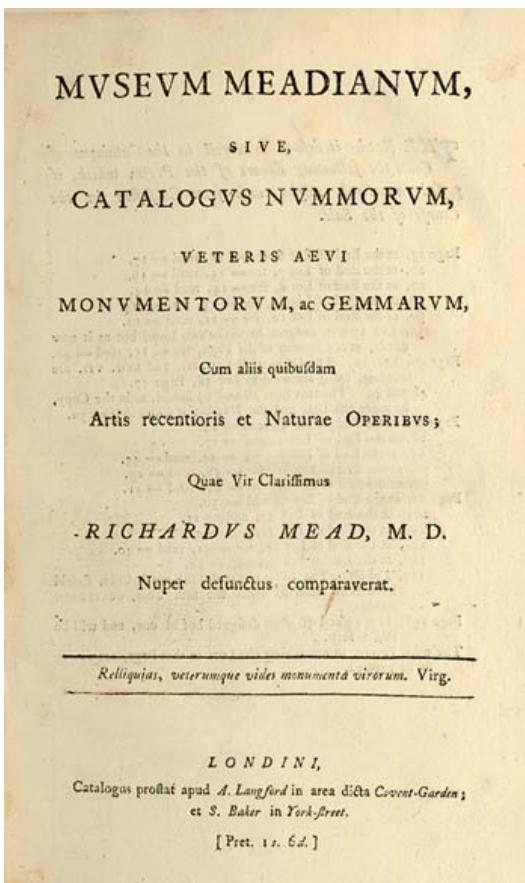


[20] CATALOG OF CARL GUSTAV, COUNT TESSIN (1695-1770)

LINNÉ, C. von (1753) *Museum Tessinianum, & opera illustrissimi comitis Dom. Car. Gust. Tessin...Collectum. Hans Excellence, Riks-Radets &c. Herr Gr. Carl Gust. Tessins Naturalie-Samling.* Published in Stockholm by Laurent Salvi.

Count Tessin was an aristocratic Swedish diplomat and the patron and friend of Linnaeus (Carl von Linné, 1707-1778). He assembled a substantial natural history collection at his castle in Akerö, Sweden, and hired Linnaeus to prepare an illustrated catalog, which was published in 1753. Oddly enough, Linnaeus's name does not appear as author, but Count Tessin dedicates the work to him.

The text is in Latin and Swedish, and the 12 full-page uncolored plates at the end are entirely devoted to minerals and fossils. Plate I is particularly attractive, showing a large cluster of quartz ("mountain crystal") from India. Although the descriptive text is minimal in some cases, in others it is fairly detailed, and Linnaeus is meticulous about citing relevant references in Wallerius, in his own *Systema naturae*, and in other works. Only a few copies of the Tessin catalog were printed for private circulation to the Count's friends, so it remains a rare work.



[21] CATALOG OF RICHARD MEAD (1673-1754)

MEAD, R. (1755) *Mvsevm Meadianum, sive Catalogus Nvmmorvm, veteris aevi Monvmentorvm, ac Gemmarvm, cum aliis quibusdam Artis recentioris et Naturae Operibus; quae vir clarissimus Richardvs Mead, M. D., nuper defunctus comparaverat.* Published in London by A. Langford and S. Baker.

Dr. Richard Mead was a wealthy London physician and collector of “objects of vertu.” He had developed a taste for classical learning and antiquities during his education at Utrecht and Leyden, taking up collecting along with his fellow student Hermann Boerhaave, and ultimately obtaining his M.D. from the University of Padua in 1695. His spacious home in London became a museum of nature and art, always open to interested students and the curious public. Following his death his collection was auctioned off, the portion covered in the above catalog scheduled for auction on February 11-19, 1755 by A. Langford in Covent Garden. According to his published catalog, minerals and gems formed only a minor part of his collection, the bulk consisting of Greek, Roman and early British coins and medals (the only plate depicts coins), and of various antiquities. But there was much else not covered in that catalog, including his extensive library, which was disposed of at auction from early in 1754 to the summer of 1755 (Curtis Schuh, personal communication).

CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ

DES Minéraux , Cristallisations , Cailloux , Jaspes , Agates arborisées , Pierres fines , montées & non montées , Pierres gravées , Tabatières , Montres & autres Bijoux ; Pièces de Mécanique & de Physique , Cabinet de Pharmacie , Figures & Vases de terre cuite ; Porcelaines , & autres Effets Curieux de la Succession de M. SAVALETE DE BUCHELAY , Gentilhomme Ordinaire du Roi , & l'un des Fermiers Généraux de SA MAJESTÉ.

Cette Vente se fera le Lundi 25 Juin & jours suivans , trois heures de relevée , sans interruption , rue S. Honoré , dans la maison de M. DE MAGNENVILLE , au Trésor Royal.

PAR PIERRE REMY.



A PARIS ,

chez DIDOT , l'aîné , Libraire & Imprimeur ,
rue Pavée , la première Porte cochère ,
en entrant par le Quai des Augustins .

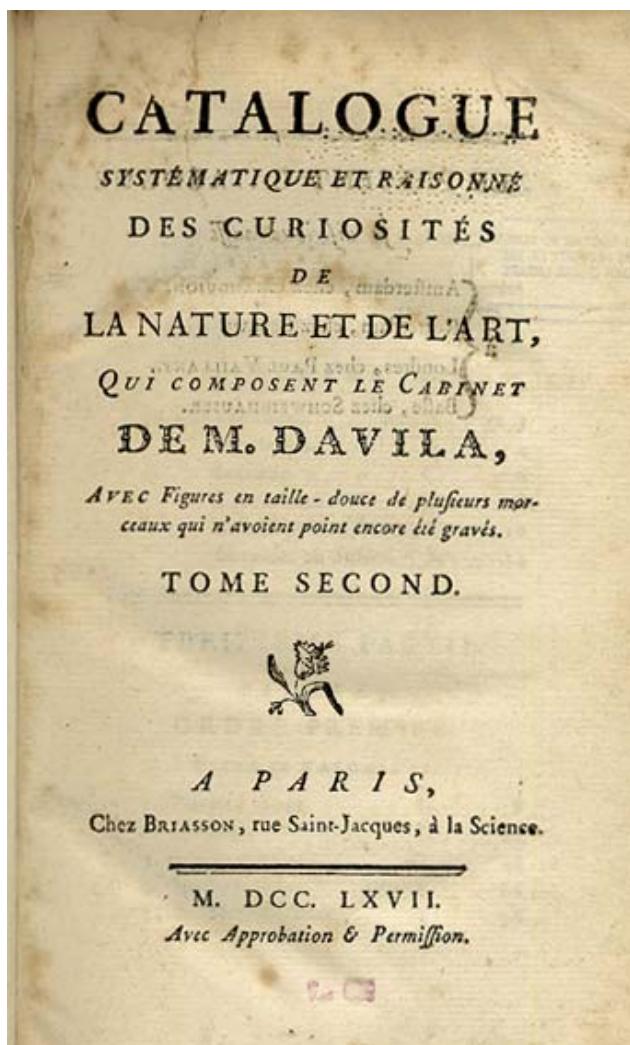
M. DCC. LXIV.

[22] CATALOG OF CHARLES SAVALETE DE BUCHELAY (D. BEFORE 1765)

REMY, P. (1764) *Catalogue raisonné de minéraux, cristallisations, cailloux, jaspes, agates arborisées, pierres fines ... et autres effets curieux de la succession de M. Savalete de Buchelay, gentilhomme ordinaire du roi et l'un des fermiers-généraux de Sa Majesté.* Published in Paris by Didot on the Quai des Augustines.

Charles Savalete, a highly distinguished and decorated French knight, was made Lord of Buchelay and many neighboring parishes in 1753. He was one of the French "Farmers General" under Louis XV, and a "Gentleman Ordinary" to the King. His collection was almost exclusively minerals, some of which he had obtained from the sale of the "celebrated cabinet" of Parisian Abbot Jean Joly de Fleury (1700-1755) in 1754. Following Savalete's death around 1763, his collection catalog was prepared for auction by Pierre Remy. It lists 686 lots including minerals of gold, silver, copper, iron, tin, lead, bismuth, mercury, antimony and zinc, as well as quartz, agates, marbles, calcite, gypsum, pyrites, fossils, amber, sulfur, bitumens, volcanic rocks, diamonds and other precious stones, mechanical devices and models of machines and artillery pieces, a pharmaceutical collection and porcelain figures and vases. His lands were sold in 1767 to Philippe-Guillaume Tavernier de Boullongne.

Pierre Remy, the author of the catalog, was a well-known cataloger in Paris. From 1756 to 1764 he prepared at least 21 other auction catalogs for the estates of notables such as the Count de Vence, the Duke de Sully, Madame de Burre, and M. J. B. de Troy, Director of the Academy of Rome, as well as various high-ranking government officials.



[23] CATALOG OF PEDRO FRANCO DÁVILA
(CA. 1713-1785)

ROMÉ de l'ISLE, J. B. L., and Abbé DUGUAT (1767) *Catalogue systematique & raisonné des Curiosités de la Nature & de l'Art, qui composent le Cabinet de M. Davila*. Three volumes, published in Paris by Chez Briasson on the rue Saint-Jacques.

Pedro Davila was a wealthy Peruvian naturalist living in Paris, who built a spectacular natural history collection. Of the three volumes of his catalog, only the second one deals with minerals, and that was the portion written for Davila by the prominent Parisian crystallographer Jean-Baptiste Louis Romé de l'Isle (1736-1790). Davila was proud of the high degree of completeness achieved by his mineral collection, and he worked hard to see that everything was properly identified. In his Preface he writes:

The earths, the rocks and the minerals comprise the subject of the second volume. Because of the methodical distribution that we have achieved of these various substances, one will easily appreciate that there are few species and even varieties which we have missed. We have followed, as much as possible, the nomenclature of Wallerius, though we have often deviated from the general plan of this author, to follow that of some of the more modern naturalists. We have also employed the [nomenclatural] *phrases* of Linnaeus, especially with regard to the rocks and of ores of Sweden, of which we acquired a very beautiful suite, labeled in accordance with the system of this celebrated naturalist. The care that we took to determine with exactitude the various species of crystallizations which are so frequent in the Mineral Kingdom, gives us reason to hope that the reader will have some indulgence for certain descriptions which run a little long, because they can contribute to a better understanding of these bodies.

Davila eventually ran into problems. His crude manners sometimes offended the aristocratic Parisian collectors with whom he associated, and he was a profligate spender. By 1767 he had run himself 300,000 reales in debt because of his extravagant specimen purchases, and the demands of his creditors forced him to liquidate his collections, including over 8,000 mineral specimens and nearly 4,000 fossils. The three volumes of his auction catalog describe nearly 40,000 specimens total, which brought the equivalent of approximately \$3 million in today's currency. Davila sold an additional 8,000 uncataloged mineral specimens to King Carlos III of Spain a few years later, so his mineral collection actually totaled around 12,000 specimens.

Although Davila's catalog received wide distribution in Paris, London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Basle, good copies are scarce.



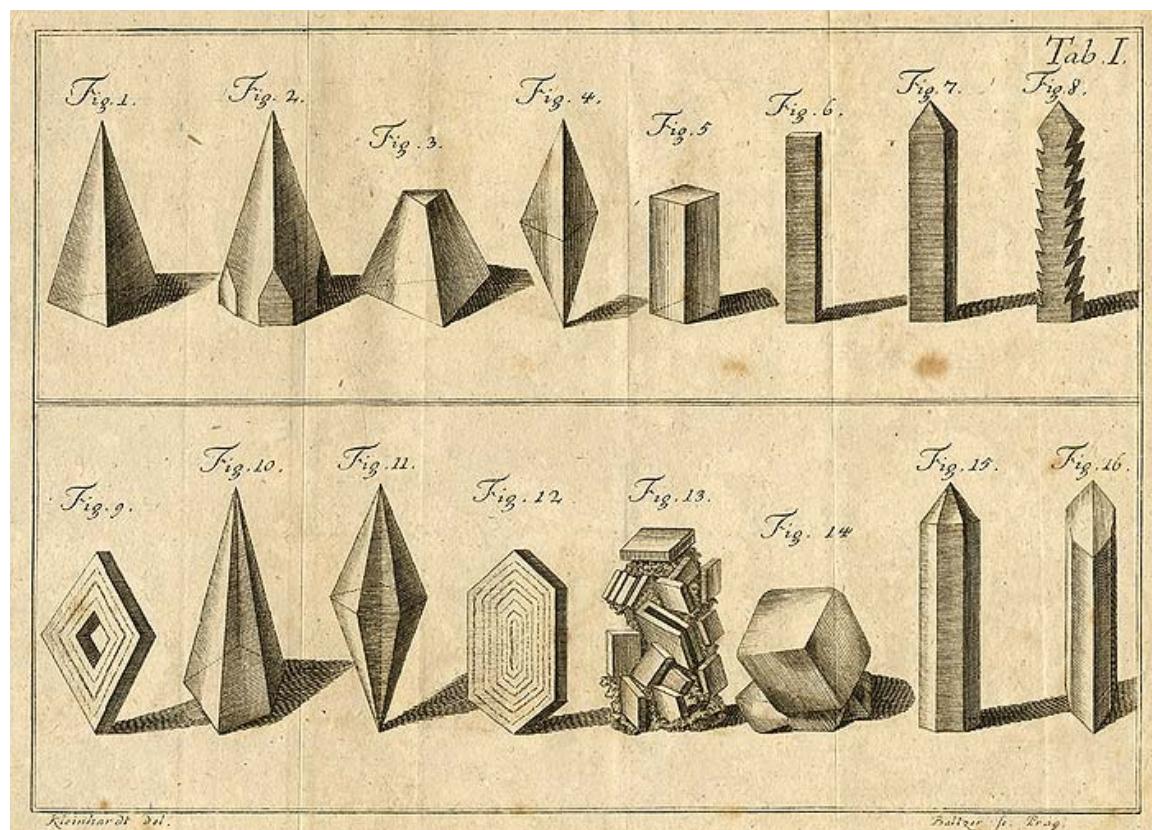
[24] CATALOG OF IGNAZ EDLER VON BORN (1742-1791)

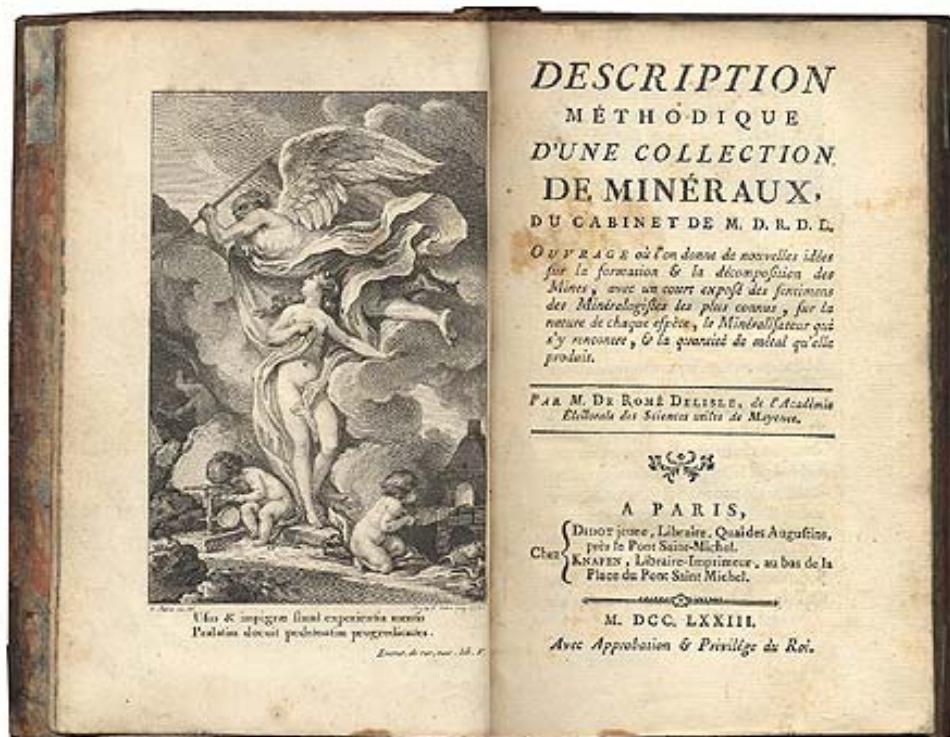
BORN, I. E. (1772) *Lithophylacium Bornianum. Index Fossilium quae collegit, et in classes ac ordines disposuit Ignatius S. R. I. Eques a Born.* Published in Prague by Wolfgang Gerl.

Ignaz von Born was a prominent Hungarian mineralogist who served as a scientific adviser to royalty and was ultimately placed in charge of the Royal Imperial Natural History Collection in Vienna. He described his collection of about 2,700 mineral specimens in his first catalog of 1772, arranged according to Cronstedt's system and depicting 38 interesting examples on three nicely engraved plates. A year later he sold this collection to the British collector Charles Greville for £1,000 (Greville sold it, along with his own collection, to the British Museum in 1810). Born then set about building a second collection, which he described in another catalog

published in 1775; it listed 930 mineral specimens. What became of this one, no one knows. It is unlikely that he had to sell it for financial reasons because around that time Born had invented a new money-saving amalgamation process for extracting gold and silver from crushed ore, and was awarded a share of the resulting profits from all Hungarian mining operations. This windfall no doubt financed his specimen purchases rather nicely from that point on.

Although I have seen Born's 1772 catalog, his second catalog of 1775 has eluded me, despite nearly 20 years of searching.





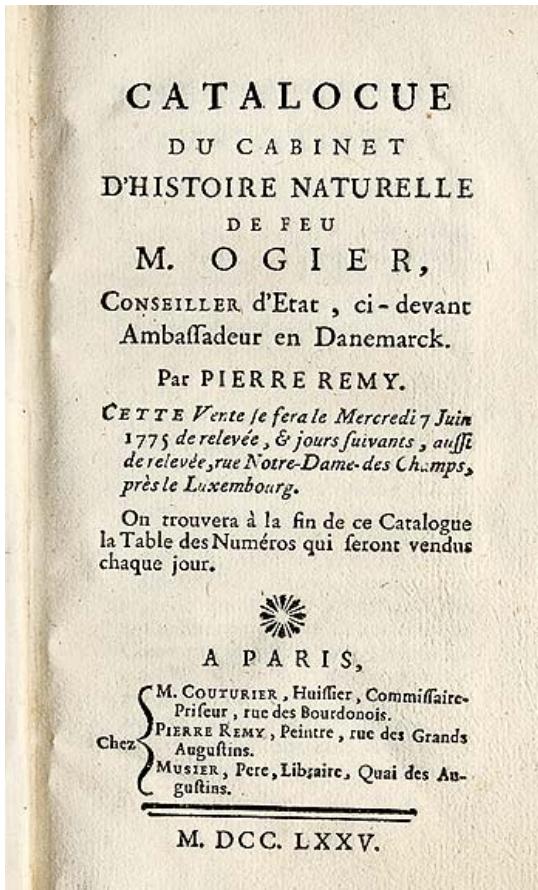
[25] CATALOG OF JEAN-BAPTISTE LOUIS ROMÉ DE L'ISLE (1736-1790)

ROMÉ de l'ISLE, J. B. L. (1773) *Description Méthodique d'une Collection de Minéraux, du Cabinet de M. D. R. D. L.* [=Monsieur De Romé de Lisle]. Published in Paris by Didot and Knapen.

Romé de l'Isle was one of the two great French crystallographers at a time when that science was being born, second in prominence only to his contemporary, the Abbot René Just Haüy (1743-1822). Together they are considered the co-founders of modern crystallography.

Romé de l'Isle's described his 750-specimen collection of metallic minerals in a catalog of 1773. His collection was well-known in Paris, and 68 of his specimens were chosen for illustration by Fabien Gautier d'Agoty in his famous color-plate book *Histoire Naturelle Régné Minéral* (1781). His catalog, as one would expect, is considerably more scholarly than average for the time. This fact, and also the publication of his one-volume essay on crystallography in 1772, made him a popular savant in Parisian scientific circles, and he was called upon to prepare quite a number of catalogs for other mineral collectors during the following years. (The Record Library owns several of them.)

Following his death in 1790, Romé de l'Isle's mineral collection was purchased by François Gillet de Laumont (1747-1834), one of the greatest mineral collectors of his day. Gillet de Laumont's collection, including Romé de l'Isle's original specimens, was purchased in 1835 by the French government and is now preserved in the Museum of Natural History in Paris. Our copy of Romé de l'Isle's catalog is from the library of the Belgian physician Jan Déméste (1745-1783).



[26] CATALOG OF M. OGIER (DIED 1775)

REMY, P. (1775) *Catalogue du Cabinet d'Histoire Naturelle de feu M. Ogier, Conseiller d'Etat, ci-devant Ambassadeur en Danemark.* Published in Paris by Couturier, Remy and Musier.

Jean-François Ogier (1703-1775), prominent French mineral collector and career diplomat, was the son of Pierre François Ogier and Marie Thérèse Berger. He married Marie Guyonne Cavelier de Cressonsacq and lived in Paris on the rue du quai d'Anjou in the parish of l'Île Saint-Louis. By 1768 he had purchased another home, at 14 rue Notre-Dame des Champs.

He served as "président de la chambre des requêtes" in the French Parliament in Paris from 1729 to 1761, and was referred to thereafter as honorary president. He was forced into exile for a while (along with other members of Parliament) for sedition against Cardinal Jean Omer Joly de Fleury (1700-1755), also a prominent mineral collector, in 1732. In 1744 he was appointed "surintendant de la maison de la Dauphine," and as churchwarden that same year he supervised the construction of an organ for the church of l'Île Saint-Louis.

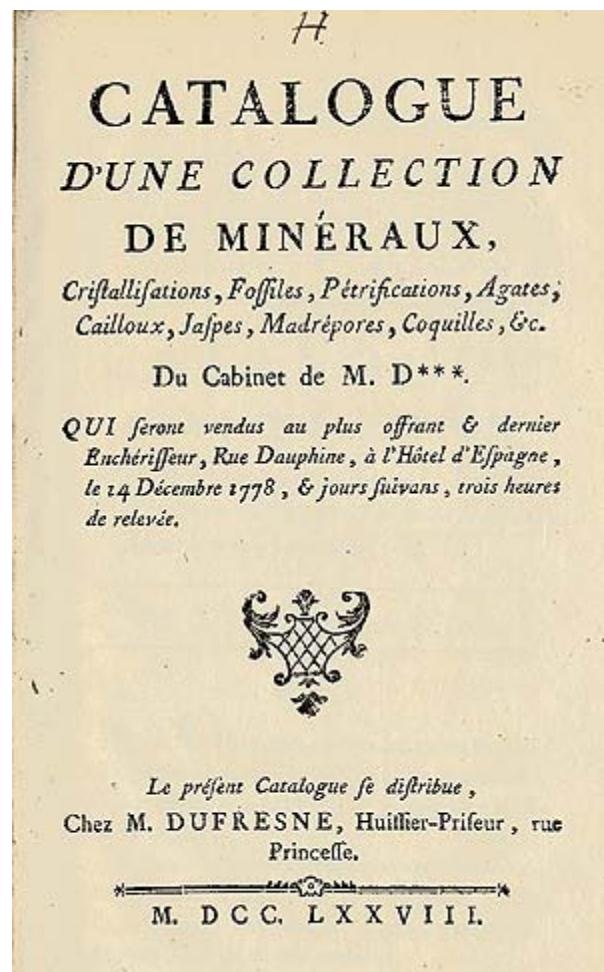
Ogier was appointed an emissary and sent to Regensburg by the King of France in 1752, and the following year was appointed French Ambassador to the Court of the Kingdom of Denmark in Copenhagen, a post he held until 1766. During the Seven Years War (1754 and 1756-

1763) he was charged by the French Minister of the Navy to organize fleets under the neutral Danish flag in order to send supplies and ammunition to French forces fighting in Canada and the French Colonies. In 1766 he returned to France, was appointed Councilor of State (a post he held for the next ten years, until his death), and was active on the political scene.

Ogier died in early 1775, and on June 7 of that year his mineral collection was sold at auction in Paris. As a result of his many years as ambassador he had accumulated a collection strong in mineral specimens from Norway, Iceland and the Faeroe Islands, complemented by specimens from the Harz Mountains, Freiberg and other northern European localities. His auction catalog, 36 untrimmed pages, describes 134 lots of mineral specimens along with 163 shells and other objects. A bronze bust of Ogier (by Jacques-François-Joseph Saly) is in the State Museum for Art in Copenhagen.

I have translated the short introduction (*Avertissement*) to the catalog; it reads as follows:

Before going into detail on the objects of the sale which is entrusted to us, we believe that it is absolutely necessary to inform the public, that, though this cabinet cannot to be ranked at the same level as the larger collections, in spite of that it deserves the attention of enthusiasts, for the beauty and above all for the scarcity of many of the specimens which are there. It is mainly with regard to mineralogy that these specimens are rare. The long stay that Mr. Ogier made in Denmark in the capacity of ambassador of His Majesty, the taste with which he made his natural history selections, and in general all the opportunities he enjoyed, put him in an excellent position to collect the productions of the various parts of that empire. As that country is fertile in mineralogy, Mr. Ogier mainly set his sights on the objects which have been reported from there; one will find his collection of specimens to be pleasantly rich in silver, in quartz crystals, in sard, in agate, and above all in chalcedony. Zeolite, that singular production of nature which is barely known of by name in France, is found mainly in Norway. Mr. Ogier brought back many specimens of it, and following his natural inclination to be giving and obliging, it has spread to several other collections. However, he took the wise precaution of retaining the most beautiful examples, which we will detail in this sale. One will find here also a considerable series of marble types, jaspers and porphyries. And there is a pretty collection of shells, among which several are rare.



[27] CATALOG OF MSSR. D***

ROMÉ de l'ISLE, J. B. L. (1778) *Catalogue d'une Collection de Miné-raux, Cristallisations, Fossiles, Pétrifac-tions, Agates, Cailloux, Jaspes, Madré-pores, Coquilles, &c. du Cabinet de M. D***.* Published in Paris by M. Dufresne.

This very rare catalog of the collection of an anonymous owner was prepared by Romé de l'Isle for an auction to be held on December 14-22, 1778 at the Hôtel d'Espagne. Approximately 2,000 mineral specimens, most of them metalliferous, plus about 1,500 corals, fossils and shells were included. The mysterious owner has never been positively identified. It may have been a member of the Drée family, or perhaps it was the Belgian physician, geologist and mineralogist Jean (or Jan) Déméste (1745-1783).