

some refiners do, during which time but little spirit of Vitriol can arise with their fires.

ULTRAMARINE, is a rich and beautiful blue used by painters. It is extracted from an azure stone, commonly called lapis lazuli, which is an opaque stone of a fine sky colour or Turkish blue; or like the blue flowers that grow in corn fields; it is embellished with small streaks and sparkles of a gold colour.

This stone comes from Persia and the East-Indies, and, as some say, from Africa; but, if from the last, it is in no great quantities.

There is also a kind of lapis lazuli found in Germany and Hungary; but not fixed, though as hard as that from Asia, which they call Iesurstein and its colour asurbleau; but its colour changes in some time, and becomes greenish: However, it is used by painters.

The best lapis lazuli is that which is fixed; that is, can endure the fire without altering colour.

Before you proceed to extract your Ultramarine, take some account of the manner, to know whether the stone be good; for, unless it is singularly so, you will lose your labour: Put pieces thereof on live coals, and blow them continually for an hour; if they retain their first hardness and colour afterwards, you may conclude them good; but, if they crumble between your fingers, they are naught. It may be tried otherwise in an iron ladle put into a furnace with some of the stone to heat, and so quench it in strong vinegar; if the colour remains still unchanged and splendid, you may assure your self it is good.

When you have made this trial, calcine it, which, to do the easier, break the stone to pieces as small as hazle-nuts, wash them afterwards in warm water, and set them in a crucible, on a wind furnace, or into an iron ladle to re-unite; then cast them into a glazed earthen vessel of distilled vinegar to quench them in; do thus seven times, to prepare them by calcination for powdering, and to prevent their sticking to the mortar.

Thus calcined, dry them well, and so powder them in a stone mortar well covered, and accordingly scarce it with the same caution, as perfumers do their most delicate and finest powders, lest the best should go off and dispel itself in the air: And thus preserve this precious powder with all imaginable care.

Some derive its name Ultramarine of the Latin *ultra*, beyond, and *marinus* of or belonging to the sea; *q. d.* beyond sea, because first brought into Europe from India and Persia.

It is the common opinion, that the method of making it was first discovered in England by a member of the East-India company; who, having a quarrel with his associates, made the secret public to be revenged of them.

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