

*Casper Oberlein's*

OLEUM ANTIMONII  
(OIL OF ANTIMONY)

*translated by: Leon Muller*

THE FIXATION - ITS QUINTESSENCE

Take 1 lb  $\text{S}^{\text{ij}}$  ij, 1 lb Sal Tartari (salt of tartar). Grind everything together quite small, put it in a crucible and let it flow (melt) in a wind-furnace for half an hour. Then pour it on a stone and again grind it quite small. Now put it in a glass, pour on it well rectified *Aqua vitae* (aquavit) or Brandy, set it in gentle heat for eight days, and it will turn golden yellow. This then pour off into a clean glass, well closed, and pour fresh *Aqua vitae* upon it. Then set it in warmth for eight days or till it gets colored again, as before, and it will also turn yellow. Pour it to the other yellow  $\nabla$ , but pour fresh *Aqua vitae* on it. Continue with this pouring on and pouring off till no more yellowness comes out. Now distill the yellow *Aqua vitae* off per *Balneum*, so that some oil stays behind. The *Aqua vitae* is always good for drawing out more in this work. When you have drawn off the yellow *Aqua vitae* down to the *Oleum* (oil), it will then be the *Quinta Essentia*, as I am quite certain.

After this, take twice as much brickdust as oil. Mix it well, put it into a small alembic (retort), and place it on

one side in the furnace, together with a proper receptacle (recipient, receiver). Distill it like an Aqua (water), at first in gentle heat and finally in quite strong heat. The oil will go over quite red. Then it is ready.

After this, take three parts of live ☿ and one part of ☉ . Amalgamate them together and pour the oil on it, so that it stands one thumb high above it. Set it in ashes for four or five days, in gentle heat, and the amalgamate will become quite black, coagulated hard, and fixed. Now pour the oil off and keep it. It will always be good as long as it lasts. Now pour fresh Aqua vitae upon the coagulated mass of ☉ and ☿ , and wash the oil off it. It will dissolve into the Aqua vitae. Then distill the Aqua Vitae in Balneo per Alembicum down to the oil. Add this oil to the first oil. It will always be as good as the first. Reduce the coagulated mass with Purras, and what remains is three parts of gold at 24 grades (probably 24 carats).

#### HOW TO EXTRACT THE QUINTESSENCE FROM ANTIMONY ORE

Take antimony ore, pulverize it quite subtile (subtle). After this, take the very best distilled wine vinegar available, pour it into a cucurbit and add the powder, so that the vinegar stands two fingers' width above it. Stir it well, and let it stand in gentle heat for eight days till the vinegar is colored red. Pour this same red-colored thing off above and be sure to keep it clean. Now pour some vinegar on it as before, and let

it stand as before. Likewise, remove its redness together with the vinegar, as before. Continue drawing off and pouring on till no more vinegar is colored red.

Now put the colored matter into an alembic (or retort) and distill it over quite gently per Alembicum. First, the white Phlegma, or water, will go over. Then it will rise above in red drops. Now take the recipient (receiver) away and put another in its place. After this, increase the redness. It is now the right *Quintessence of Antimony*. Use it as you know. It has a sweet taste like honey.

#### OIL OF ANTIMONY

Item. First of all, the vinegar together with the extracted Antimony must putrefy for 40 days in manure. It must rot in the well sealed glass. Only after this can the work indicated above be carried out. The oil of antimony is as excellent a medicine for wounds as can be found on earth. Oil of lead is quite like it. You will find that in another little book.

#### HOW TO EXTRACT THE SULPHUR FROM ANTIMONY

Take 2 Lots of salite, 1 lb of vitriol, 8 Lots of alum. Distill a water from these, as usually, driving the Spiritus hard. Pour the aquafort upon powdered  in a Venetian alembic (retort), so that the liquid stands slightly above the . Let

it stand one day, and the antimony will absorb the aquafort. Now pour more of the aquafort over it, so that it stands well above it by two or three fingers' width. After this, distill the aquafort off per alembicum, with very gentle heat and slowly. In this way the  $\text{O}^\dagger$  goes over per alembicum together with the aquafort, and the sulphur remains at the bottom white and coarse. It will become so hard that it cannot be taken out but the glass must be broken. If then the sulphur still has some moisture in it, it has to be dried on a lime-kiln. Thereafter the sulphur can be used as is known. Item, the distilled-off water may also be tried for some things. Without doubt, it may be useful for one thing or another.

#### AN ANTIMONY WORK PARS CUM PARTE

Take tartar, saltpeter, and common salt ana. (The same amount of each.) Grind everything together, put it into a new raw pot, and seal it with a piece of brick. Set it in a coal fire and calcine it well in plenty of heat, approximately a good hour. When it has cooled down, you will find the tartar calcined white. Now powder the whole matter, dissolve it in hot water and discard the feces. Then filter the dissolved matter and boil it down to salt.

After this, take 1 lb of antimony, pound it small, add half a pound of the above-mentioned salt, and mix well. Now melt it in a crucible (Now let it flow in a crucible). Then pour it into a basin, retaining the King. Grind the slag small, add to it half

as much salt, mix everything well, melt it as before and pour it to the King as before. Keep the Kings together. Do this work while Kings are being produced.

After this, grind the Kings together. Take fine, small-grained ☾, the same weight as the powder of ☽, mix them well and melt them together. Pour this into a basin, and the ☾ will settle into a King. Remove this King, and if you let the antimony smell it well (literal translation), the ☾ will become heavier than before. Now take some more fresh antimony, one pound, and turn it into a King, as before. All these Kings, however, treat with this ☾, as before. And do the same again a third time with a pound of fresh ☽, as before.

When the ☾ has evaporated for the third time by melting on the cupel, take it and put it into another cupel. Add to it three times as much lead as there is ☾, and drive the antimony completely off it. After this, melt it in the cupel till it becomes pure. Now add to this ☾ its weight in fine ☉, and melt them together in a crucible. Then pour the matter into an ingot, laminate it, and cut small plates (or sheets) out of it. Sprinkle them with urine, stratify them with verdigris, not thickly, *stratum super stratum* (layer upon layer), and seal all together in a crucible with Sal Alkali. Then the silver with the gold has been refined to 24 grades

Let the slag that has stayed behind melt again and the remaining ☾ will settle into a King. In this way you will get all the Luna back.

HOW TO TURN FINE SILVER INTO GOLD BY MEANS OF ANTIMONY  
(THAT IS, ONE LOT ( $\frac{1}{2}$  OZ.) OF SILVER INTO ONE MARK GOLD (8 OZ.)

First you must cleanse Luna in the following way. Take 3 lbs of rock salt, grind it fine, then mix it with 1 lb of unslaked lime. Now take a crucible, coat it inside with chalk, then put into it one Mark of fine silver, or as much as you wish. According to the amount, and upon one Mark of silver put 8 Lots of the powder ut supra (as above), seal it with a cupel, place it in a wind-furnace, and let the heat start up gently for one hour. After this, heat strongly for three hours to make it melt well till the salt is completely consumed. After these four hours, take it out when it has cooled, and you will find the silver without any water. Do this four times, after which refine the ☽ in lead. Then it is cleansed.

Item. There exist yet much better purgations for ☽ than these. Accordingly, take 8 Lots of cleansed ☽,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Lots of filed ♀, 1 Lot of lead,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  drams of iron filings. Melt everything together for one hour. Then take it out. When it has cooled, you will find a beautiful King. Now powder 1 Lot of the King, 1 Lot of sulphur, and 1 Lot of Ⓚ. Put it in a mortar or throw a burning coal into it, stir it well, and let it thus burn out. After this, grind everything. Place this powder in a cement cupel stratum upon stratum (layer upon layer), the thickness of the back of a knife, and the above-mentioned cleansed ☽. Put a cupel over it and cement it for 8 hours. Then the sheets (thin plates) will become quite brittle. After this, take all the mat-

ter together as it was in the cement, put it in a crucible, cover it with Venetian glass and put a cupel upon it. Let it thus melt in a wind-furnace for at least one hour. Melt the King on the cupel for a little while, so that the antimony can evaporate. Then melt it on the cupel till it is pure. Separate this, and the lime falls off the gold to the bottom. Use it as it should. Now the ☾ is at 24 grades.

#### HOW TO PREPARE THE ANTIMONY FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED WORK

Take 1 lb of ☽, put it in a crucible, then pour it into a vessel rubbed over with a bacon skin. In this way its savageness is removed. After this, take the ☽, put it once more into a crucible, add to it two Lots of salite, two Lots of death's head of which Aqua fortis has been burnt (nitric acid), two Lots of red tartar, two Lots of sulphur. Mix everything and put the powder on the melting antimony. Let it melt well for a quarter of an hour, pour everything together into a vessel coated with a bacon skin, as before. Thus the antimony is prepared and can be used for this work. It also serves the goldsmiths to cast ☉ through it, because it does not ravish like the raw ☽. Michael Blaman makes his prepared antimony as follows: He only takes two Lots of lead, two Lots of ♀ and no tartar. With that he refines the gold and uses it (the mixture) to cast through it. I have seen this on the Kuettenberg.

## HOW TO EXTRACT THE QUINTESSENCE FROM ANTIMONY OR $\ddot{\text{O}}$ ORE

Take antimony, as much as you like, grind it as small as possible, put it in a glass and pour on it very sharp lie made of unslaked lime and ashes of willows. Boil the antimony in it till the lie turns blood-red. Then pour it off into another glass and add another lie, but it must be boiled as before till it turns red. Decant as before. Do this till the lie no longer turns red. Put all the red lie together into a glass, close it well and set it in horse manure for forty days. Then distill with a gentle fire. First, pure water will come out, then drops red as blood. Gather them separately. With them you can sublimate Mercury red, likewise refine and fix. In addition, you can make a tincture with it, as I know myself.

## HOW TO MAKE TARTAR RED FOR ANTIMONY

Item. Take two quarters of Acetum acerrimum, distillatum (aceti preparatio p. Mercurii rebedina extrahenda). (This may mean: Vinegar prepared for extracting the redness of Mercury), 1 lb of calcined tartar. Put the vinegar in a glass together with a recipient (receiver). Into that put half a pound of calcined tartar and distill the vinegar over. Now remove the recipient, pour the vinegar into a cucurbit, set it in sand, then distill it per alembicum into another recipient, together with the tartar. Do this alternation seven times. After this, put

all the tartar in a cucurbit and distill the vinegar off it. Finally, heat it as strongly as if you were to make Aquafort of it. Now the vinegar is prepared.

#### OIL OF ANTIMONY

Item. Take 1 lb of vinegar and 1 lb of antimony ground small. Pour the vinegar on the antimony in a glass and let it stand in gentle heat for three days. Thus the vinegar will turn red. Decant it quite carefully, making sure that nothing turbid goes down with it. Now pour some more vinegar upon it, let it stand for seven days till the vinegar turns red. Continue doing this till no more redness goes over. Then distill the vinegar from it per alembicum, and you will find oil of antimony at the bottom.

#### HOW TO MAKE OIL OF ANTIMONY AND A FIXATION ON IT IN ORDER TO CHANGE 4 LOTS OF GOLD INTO ONE MARK OF SILVER

Item. Take black calcined tartar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb, 8 Lots of  $\text{O}^{\dagger}$ . Stir everything well together, then let it melt in a crucible covered with a cupel (test) on it. When it is well melted, pour some sharp vinegar on it, which must be warm, and let it stand till it becomes pure. Then filter the vinegar and you will find the red antimony at the bottom like block curdled. Turn that into pure dry powder.

After this, take oil of tartar, as much as you like. Dis-

solve, imbibe the antimony redness with it, and dry it again. Now grind and imbibe it again as before, and let it dry. Do this four times. Thereafter, set it in a humid cellar and it will turn into a red oil called oil of antimony. Let dry what has not dissolved, grind it small and imbibe it again three or four times. Then set it in the cellar and it will dissolve completely.

Item. The other oil is made as follows. Take 4 Lots of vitriol, dissolve it in urine, boil it down to more than half in an unglazed pot. Add to it 4 Lots of ✱ , 3 Lots of salite, 4 Lots of ⊕ , everything ground small. Boil all of it till it is dry, powder it, set it in the cellar, dissolve it, and you have the other oil.

Item. After this, take the equal weight or mass of these two oils, pound it well with filed ☾ on a hard rubbing-stone (grinding-stone) to make it quite small and subtle. Then put it in a cucurbit and set it to digest for seven days. Pour enough oil on it to cover it a little. When it is distilled over, pour the distilled water back over it. Do this seven times. Thereafter put it in a sealed crucible and let it cement in gentle heat for 16 hours. Then melt it in a wind-furnace for four hours. Finally, refine it in lead, and you will find in 1 Lot of silver a "Quintlin" (4 ounces) of gold at 24 grades.

### HOW TO MAKE SILVER FROM ANTIMONY

Recipe (take) 1 lb of antimony, 4 Lots of  $\frac{1}{2}$  , 1 Lot of  $\text{Q}$  . Melt everything together in a crucible. Pour it into a casting-cone (casting mold). Melt this King a little with a cupel. After this, on the test, and in this way you have the  $\text{D}$  .

### HOW TO LIQUATE ANTIMONY FOR GOLD

Recipe. Take 2 Lots of sulphur, 2 Lots of salite. Mix these well together. Now put antimony in a crucible and melt it well. Then throw some of the powder (see above) into it, cover it with a retort (cucurbit). Pour the antimony into a casting-cone, and it will get a King which use as you should.

### HOW TO LIQUATE ANTIMONY FOR SILVER

Recipe. Take 1 lb of antimony, 2 lbs of burnt tartar. Put them together into a mortar, then into a crucible. Seal it above and let it melt well. Refine the King as you should.

### HOW TO TEST ANTIMONY TO SEE IF IT WOULD BE GOOD TO EXTRACT ITS REDNESS

Recipe. Take the antimony, spread it on yellow paper that has been smoothed with a tooth. If it produces a red streak,

it is good. But if it produces a black streak, it is not good. Take, therefore, the ♂ with the red lines, grind it small and mix it with good lime. There must be much more lime than ♂. Pour water on it, let it boil well. Then let it settle and percolate it into a glass. Now it is quite pure. Then add distilled wine vinegar to it, and it will look as if you had poured blood into it. Now let it settle, liquate or draw it off with diligence. Thus you will get a fine red powder which is the Quintessence of antimony.

#### FINE SILVER FIXED FOR GOLD THROUGH ANTIMONY

Take 8 Lots of ♂, 2 Lots of filed ♂, 2 Lots of filed ♀, 1 Lot of crude tartar, 1 Lot of  $\hbar$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot of  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot of glass. These should all melt together. When the matter has melted for half an hour, let it cool so that it may settle into a King. Now remove the King. Grind 1 Lot of the King to 2 Lots of Luna. Melt it for two hours, then refine it in lead. This Luna produces all grades when added to a mixture.

#### GRADATION

Recipe viridi Aeris, Oleum +, Oleum  $\text{Ⓞ}$ , Pulverum ♂, ana.

Recipe viridi Aeris, Oleum † , Oleum ⊕ , Oleuk vel Pul-  
verum ⊕ , ana. If you can get Oleum Martis, take also one part  
of that. Put everything together, and when it is coagulated,  
dissolve it again in a cellar or in a water made for grading (re-  
fining). The more often you do this, the more it tinges. If  
one-third or one-fourth of the powder is thrown into the melting,  
it will produce ⊙ .

**HOW TO EXTRACT THE REDNESS OF ANTIMONY WHICH IS  
THEN USED FOR GRADING (REFINING) AND FIXATION**

Recipe: Put as much tartar as you wish in a pot, sealed  
above, set it in a furnace, let it burn till it no longer eva-  
porates, and it will be black enough. Pour warm water on it  
till it is no longer sharp. Now boil the same lie down to a  
salt in a kettle or a pot, and preserve it. Take antimony, as  
much as you like, put it in a crucible, melt it carefully and  
throw the above-described salt into it, pounded small, so much  
and so long till the ⊕ becomes red. Use it for cementing or  
grading (refining).

Knock this antimony into pieces and pour some good vinegar  
upon it. The vinegar will draw the redness out of it, till there  
is none of it left. It can also be used for grading (refining).  
But the vinegar that is liquated as described above, is the no-  
blest. If silver that has been laminated fixed is stratified  
in it, sealed in a glass or pot and closed with a little dough,

is kept one day and one night first in gentle then in strong heat. This ♂, thus prepared, is good for cinnabar in which to congeal silver.

(Note: I believe the meaning is: If silver. . . is stratified in it, meaning the antimony and the vinegar together) and if the antimony is then sealed in a glass etc., then it is good for cinnabar etc. The German text is not clear.) Possibly it means, If silver is stratified in antimony, after its redness has been removed by the vinegar.)

#### A LITTLE TINCTURE

Take oil of ♂, dissolve in it ✕ made red through ♂. Now take oil of vitriol, dissolve in it ♀/. Take both oils together and remove the fourth part. After this, dissolve sublimated Mercury in the oil, and it will dissolve like water. Now take one part of calcined ☉, imbibe it with three parts of oil (see above). If it is set in warm manure, it will turn into a very red water. Coagulate that in a strong fire and put it back in the manure. When it has again turned into water, coagulate it once more. Do this ten times. In this way it will become a golden water or oil. Now take one part of this same oil or water, throw it upon one hundred parts of crude Mercury, and it will become good gold.

END