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Chapter XI

How the Mother-of-Pearl or Copper[luster] color is made.

Take again $\frac{1}{2}$ of a ducat that was heated to redness
Cut it into small pieces and place it into a
Glass, pour aqua regia
Onto it and let it dissolve, and when
It is dissolved so take a large
waste bowl or some a glass, I have
always used a waste bowl
pour it into the dissolved gold

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afterwards take 2-3 gr. from an apothecary
good oleum tartari (a concentrated solution of potassium carbonate) add it slowly
dropwise, not all at once, otherwise
the gold will rise and run away
for that reason pour it or add it dropwise every half
or quarter hour it will effervesce
and rise high and when
it has had enough, which is when one observes
that upon further addition
the gold is still then the precipitation is complete
let that stand for a day then
heat make a pot of hot pure
water pour it on let it

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stay for several hours, the gold settles
to the bottom and when it has settled pour
the supernatant slowly away such that
no gold runs away, do this often with the warm water and when you
have decanted it for the last time so put
it in the sun or oven heat leave
it alone to dry
but pay attention when you see
it will be dry soon remove it
from the heat and set it in a
place where it will further dry
but if it get to be very dry then it goes and
ignites itself spontaneously in the heat

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and makes a horrible explosion
and goes up in the air and your laborer
can suffer injuries, therefore
it is to be handled carefully, I have always
kept it in a damp place, this precipitated
gold because it is set off right away
by the action of heat, it is a yellow powder
take two parts of this and one part flux (lead silicate)
grind them small in the Mattrelgi, it gives
a beautiful coppery color (luster), one should not
apply it in thick layers instead as thinly as possible or
paint with it.

The oleum tartari you can prepare yourself

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I have always made it myself that at the apothecary's
Is so expensive, take 6-8 pounds of tartar (potassium tartrate)
The red one is better if you can get it
Than the white one, put it in the glow-fire
or potter's fire in a sagger or
unglazed vessel so that
it is calcined and dump it
into a basin and pour some hot
water on it so the calcined tartar is dissolved
transfer it to another basin and again pour hot water
on it until it is dissolved completely
but one ought not pour too much water on it
otherwise it will become weak

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and you would have to use lots of it to precipitate the gold, this solution
pour through a filter made of blotting paper
so that impurities stay behind
transfer it into a glass bottle and save
it for future use.

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