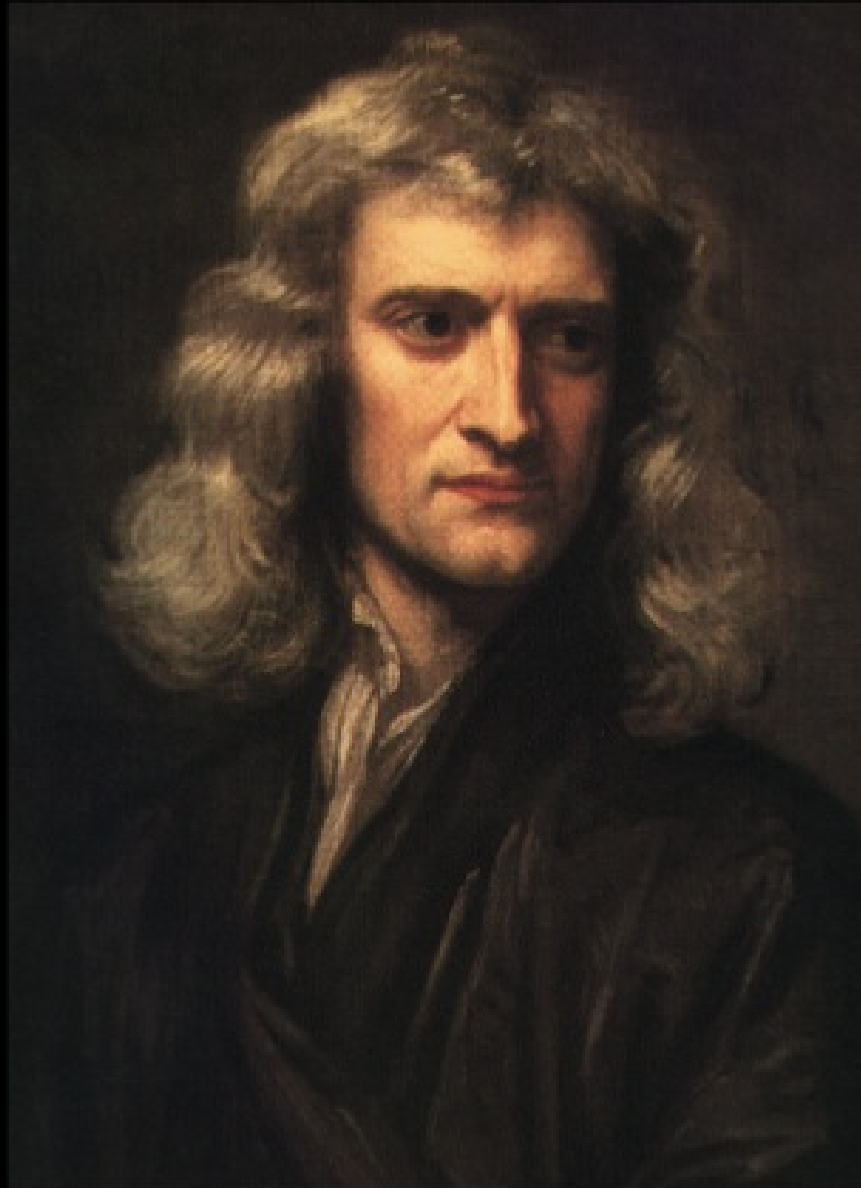


Title: Why did Isaac Newton Believe in Alchemy?

Date: Oct 06, 2010 07:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/10100096>

Abstract: Isaac Newton is known today as one of the most profound scientists to have ever lived. Newton's discoveries in physics, optics, and mathematics overturned a variety of fundamental beliefs about nature and reshaped science in ways that are still powerfully with us. But this is only part of Newton's fascinating story. Research over the last generation has revealed that the famous scientist spent over thirty years composing, transcribing, and expounding alchemical texts, resulting in a mass of papers totaling about a million manuscript words. In fact, Newton seems to have considered himself one of an elite alchemical brotherhood, even going so far as to coin private anagrams of his name in the secretive custom of the sons of art. Despite our growing knowledge of Newton's deep involvement in alchemy, one basic question remains to be answered Why did the founder of Newtonian physics believe in alchemy, a discipline long viewed as discredited in the modern scientific world? William R. Newman's lecture will attempt to arrive at an answer to that question by providing the evidence that led seventeenth-century thinkers to an acceptance of alchemical transmutation.







more darke & transparent by being soaked in water
 [for y^e water fills up y^e reflecting pores]

~~58. I took a bodkin~~

58 I took a bodkin & put it betwixt my eye & y^e bone as neare to y^e ~~end~~ of backside of my eye as I could: & pressing my eye wth y^e end of it (soe as to make y^e curvature a, b, c, d, e, f in my eye) there appeared several white darke & coloured circles



old substance for it left in the remainder
ball of f if not more freely
 y is anterior than f & y ? none mediator set
inter. always ad cad. comp.

1 86 95

In Sudore Vultus tui Vescitor Cibo ,



In 't Sweet uves Aanschyns sult ghy broot eeten.

J. van der Veltz fecit.



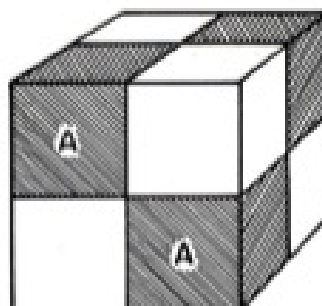




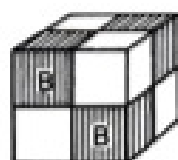
A N O N Y M I
PHILALETHÆ PHILOSOPHI
Opera omnia,
 Quæ adhuc in otuerunt cum 12. figuris æneis,
 ipsius Philalethæ, nunquam visis.

MVTINÆ, Typis Fortuniani Rotati. 1695.
Superiorum Perinellæ.





Particle of the third
composition (void:
matter = 7:1)



Particle of the second
composition (=A. Void:
matter = 3:1)



Particle of the first composition
(=B. Void: matter = 1:1)



Ultimate particle or atom (=C. No void space)



geschmeidig
677i
Silber















Newton, *Of Natures Obvious Laws*, 1r:

That metalls vegetate after the same laws. Proved
transitorily From the circumstances observed by
miners, more fully from The consent of the Sophy with
one another & with natures processe, & the strange
distractions of all other chymists from both nature &
one another. And the corruptibility of all things

A description of their vegetation in the earth

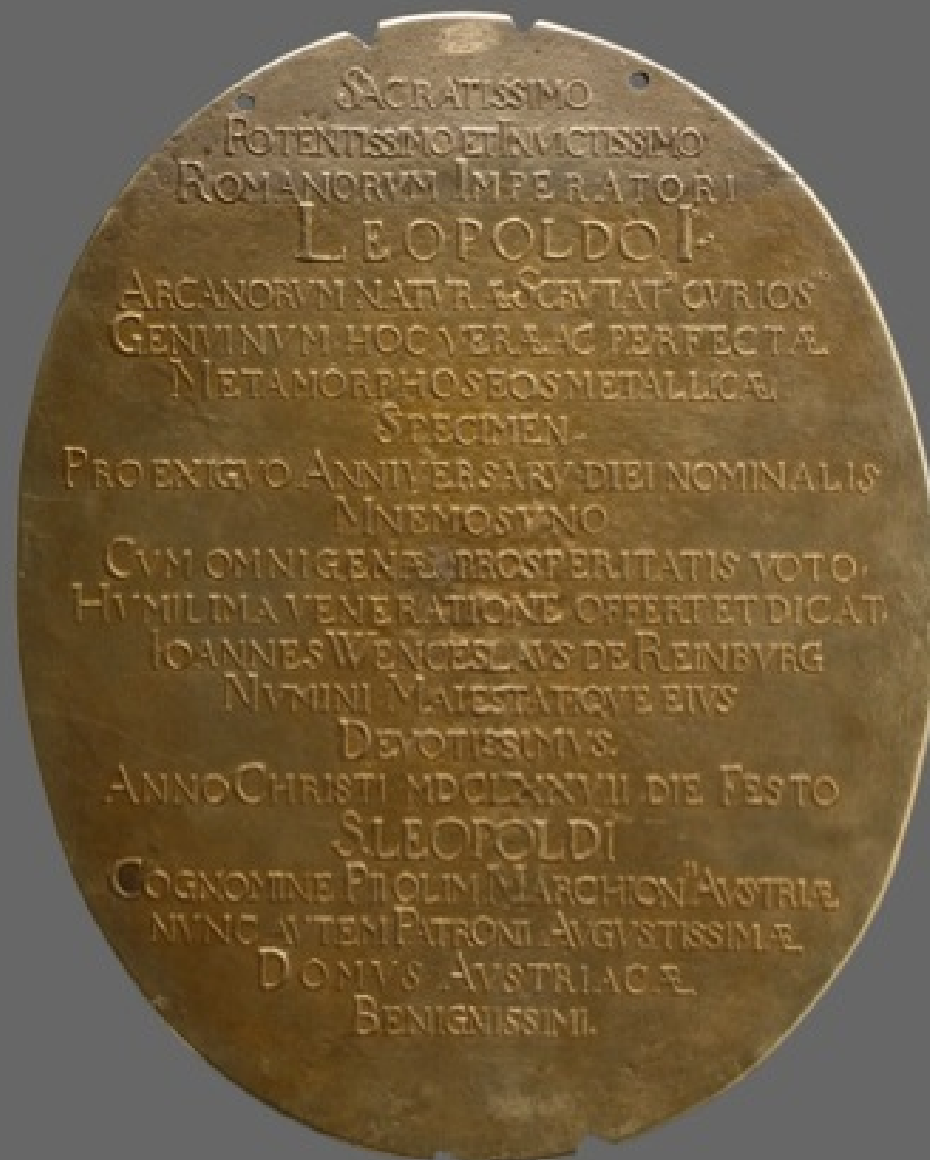
A description of their vegetation in a glasse. & that this
is as much naturall as tother

"Tree of Diana"

copyright 2008
William R. Newman







SACRATISSIMO
POTENTISSIMO ET INVICTISSIMO
ROMANORVM IMPERATORI
LEOPOLDO I.

ARCANORVM NATVRAE SCVTATVRIOS
GENIVVM HOC VERA AC PERFECTA
METAMORPHOSEOS METALLICAE
SPECIMEN.

PRO EXTIMO ANNIVERSARIJ DIEI NOMINALIS
MINIMOSTIMO

CVM OMNIGENAE PROSPERITATIS VOTO
HUMILINA VENERATIONE OFFERT ET DICAT
IOANNES WENCESLAUS DE REINBURG
NVMINI MAIESTATIQUE EIVS
DEVOTISSIMVS.

ANNO CHRISTI MDCCXXII DIE FESTO
SLEOPOLDI

COGNOMINE PROLIN MARCHION AVSTRIAE
NUNC VTEM PATRONI AVGVSTISSIMAE
DOMVS AVSTRIACAE
BENIGNISSIMI.



Anno 1675 mense Julio
Ego J. J. Becher Doctor
Hanc unciam argenti finissimi
ex plumbo arte alchimica
transmutavi

