



Cherry stone black

Reconstruction
Recipe by Huskyns/Mayerne, 1634



Recipe (1634)



*feu de corps - Noyaulx de Cerises brusles
et reduict en charbon dans vn creuset couvert*

Diplomatic transcription (French)

Noyaux de Cerises brusles /& reduict en charbon dans vn creuset couvert.

Normalized (French)

Noyaux de cerises - brûlés et réduits en charbon dans un creuset couvert.

Translation (English)

Cherry stones - burnt & reduced to charcoal in a covered crucible.

in: Mayerne, Théodore Turquet de. 1620-46. 'Pictoria, Sculptoria et Quae Subalternarum Artium' (the 'Mayerne Manuscript'), British Library, B.M. Sloane 2052, fol. 29r, as Note: "Instructions by Mr. Huskins, an excellent Illuminator, 14 March 1634"

Handout instructions



Source

Mayerne, Théodore Turquet de. 1620. 'Pictoria, Sculptoria et Quae Subalternarum Artium' (the 'Mayerne Manuscript'), British Library, B.M. Sloane 2052, fol. 29r

Annotation: "Instructions by Mr. Huskins, an excellent Illuminator, 14 March 1634"

Ingredients & equipment

Cherry stones

Fire

Iron-cast crucible with lid

Metal mortar & pestle

Grinding slab stone, muller, water

Aqueous gum Arabic solution

Sweet water shell, brush

Preparation steps

- (1) Collect cherry stones
- (2) Light a fire
- (3) Put cherry stones in a crucible, close with lid
- (4) Put the crucible on the fire and let it there for about 2 hours
- (5) Crush the charred pits in a metal mortar & pestle
- (6) Grind the powder on a stone slab with a muller and water
- (7) Transfer paint into a sweet water shell and apply on paper with a brush

Date & Place

"Burgundian Black" Summerschool ROOTS: Research on the origins of historical techniques, University of Antwerp, 1-5 July 2019 and Ellingshausen (Germany), August 2020.

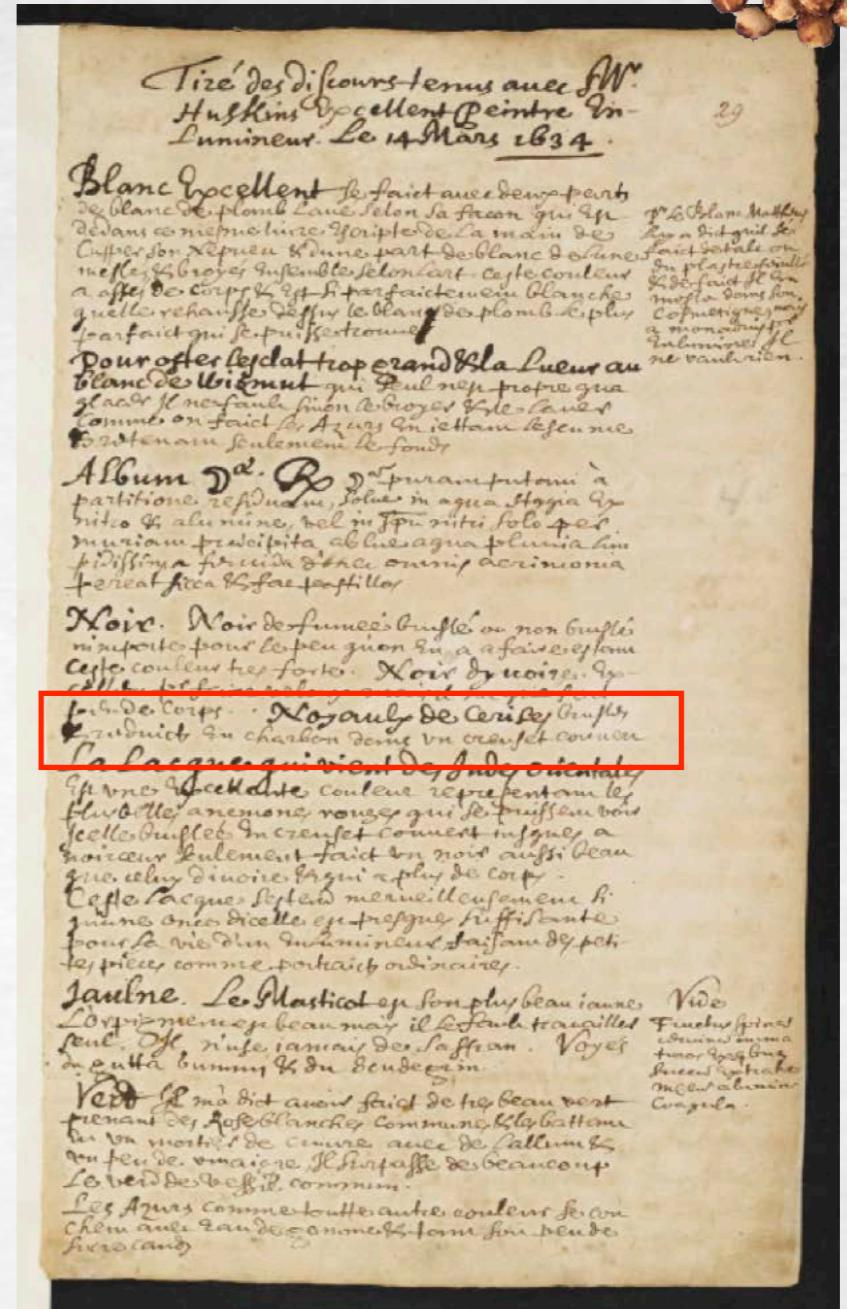


Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction



1. Collect and char cherry stones



Cherry stones are charred in a cast-iron crucible on a wood- and charcoal fire for about 2 hours.

A few charred stones show blue coloured areas.

Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction



2. Crush and grind charred cherry stones, mix with gum Arabic



Charred cherry stones are hard and therefore first need to be crushed in a metal mortar & pestle.

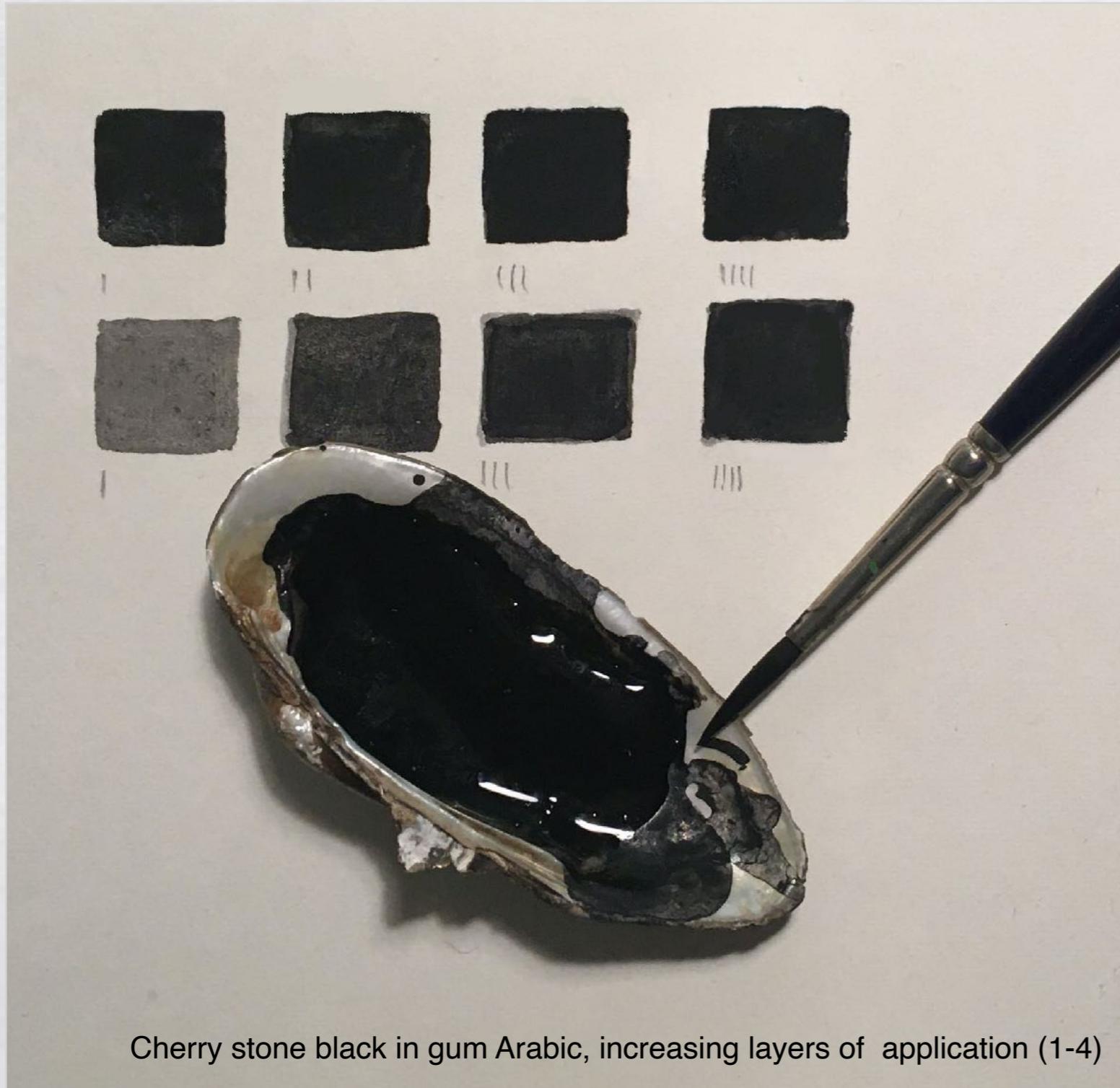
In water, the particles are easy to grind and already after 5-10 minutes form a homogeneous film.

For preparation of a water colour, mixing with gum Arabic as binding agent is required. The resulting water colour is intensely black.

Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction



3. Transfer cherry stone black into a shell and apply on paper



Cherry stone black in gum Arabic, increasing layers of application (1-4)

What did we learn during the reconstruction?



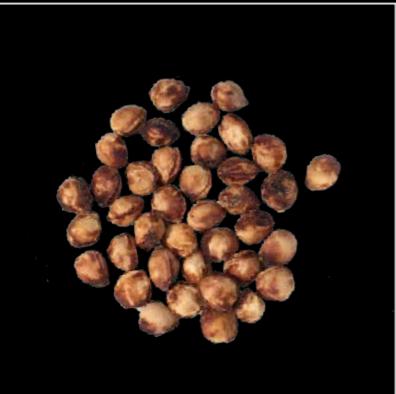
It is possible to char cherry stones in a crucible.

Some charred pits have blue spots.

They are hard and need to be crushed in a pestle.

Charred cherry stone powder is easy to grind in water.

Cherry stone water colour is intensely black.





Enjoy your own reconstructions
and share them with the field !

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Heritage on paper and related materials

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