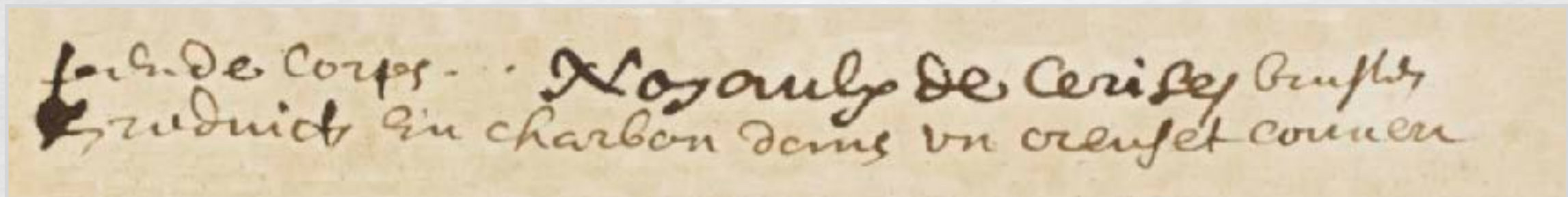




Cherry stone black

Reconstruction
Recipe by Huskins/Mayerne, 1634

Recipe (1634)



Diplomatic transcription (French)

Noyaulx de Cerises brusles /& reduict en charbon dans vn creuset couuert.

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.

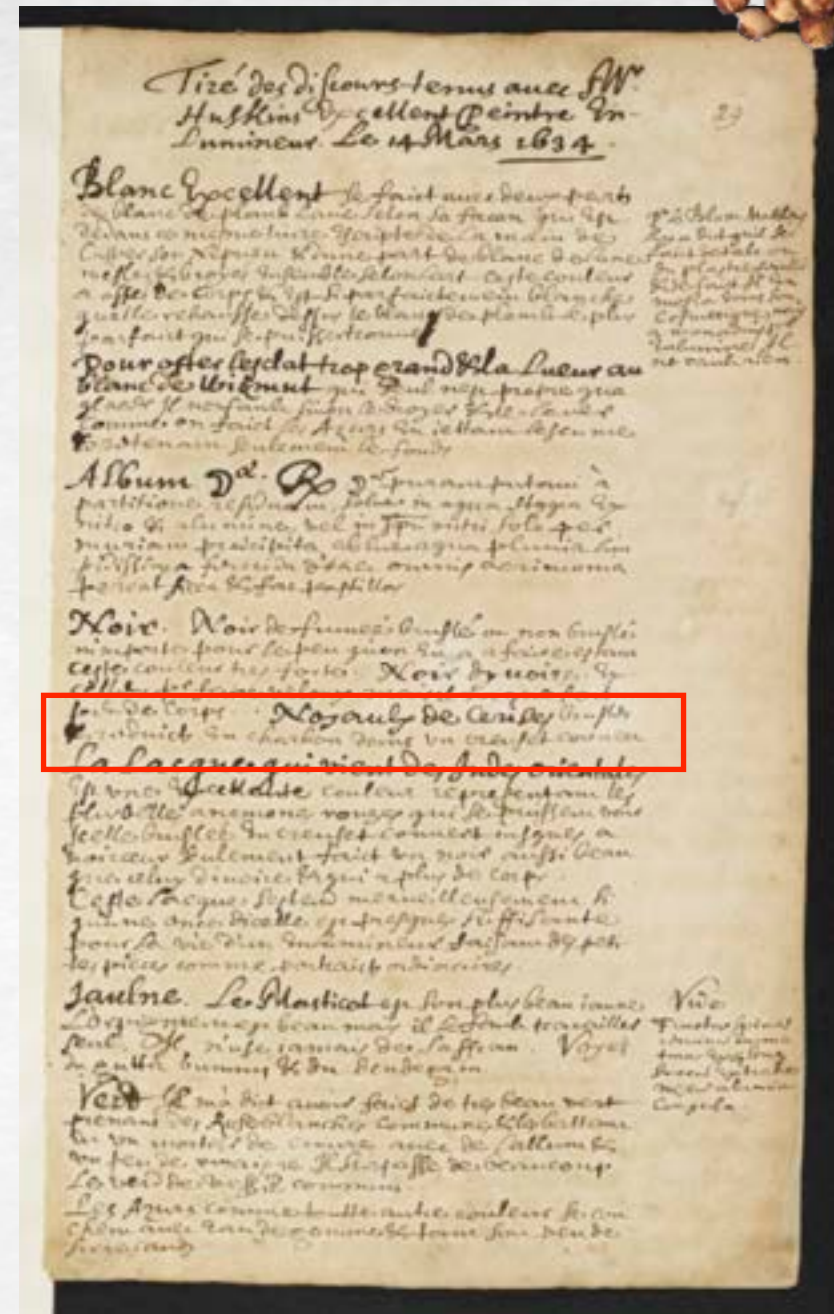


Photo report: step-by-step reconstruction



1. Collect and char cherry stones



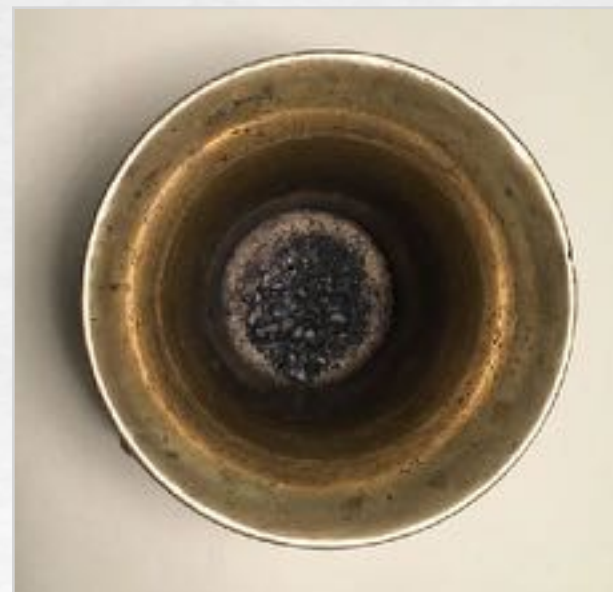
Cherry stones are charred in a cast-iron crucible on a wood- and charcoal fire for about 2 hours.

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.

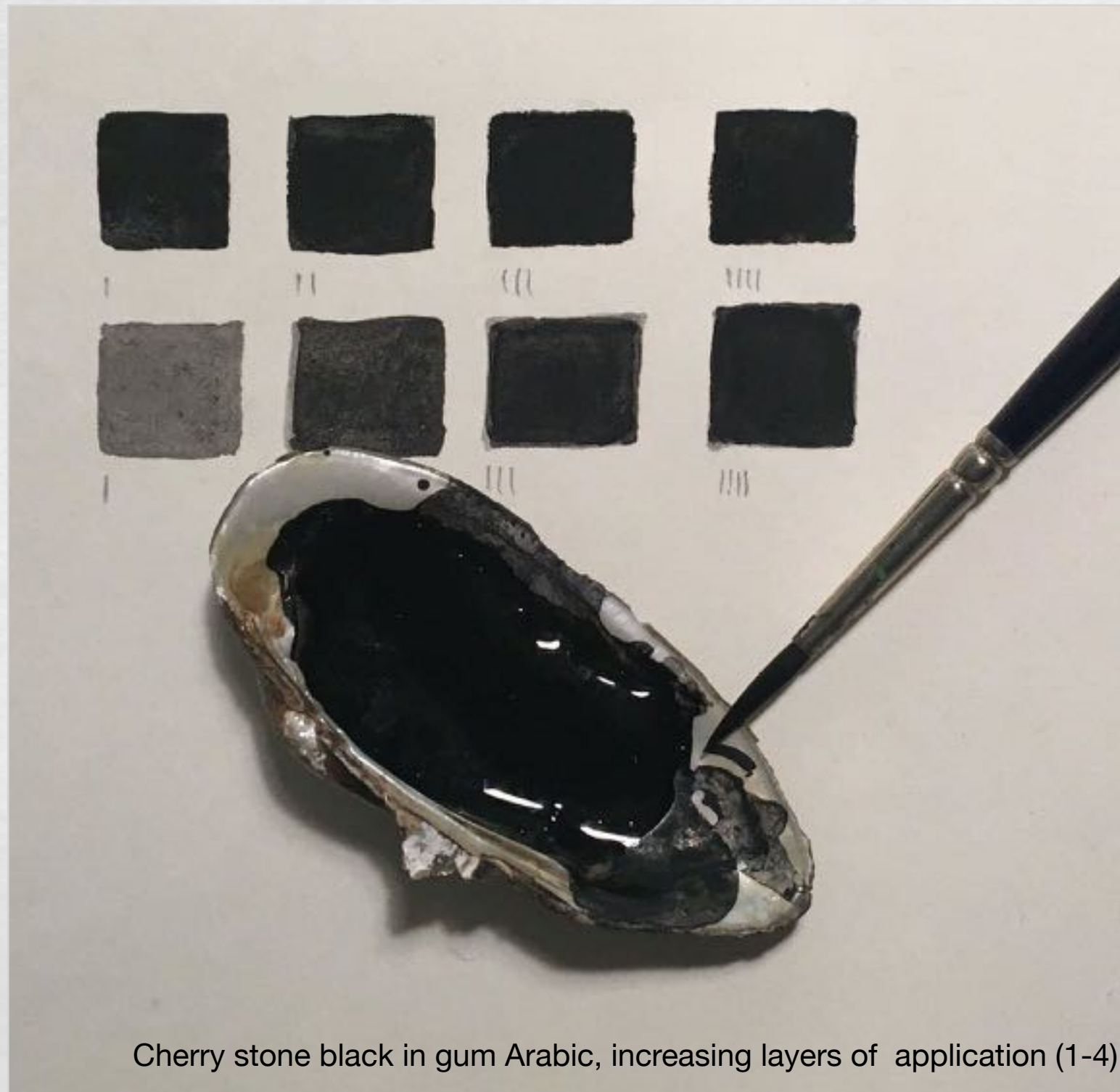
In water, the particles are easy to grind and already after 5-10 minutes form a homogeneous film.

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 !

Birgit Reissland

Senior Heritage Scientist
Heritage on paper and related materials

Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed
Ministerie voor Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Amsterdam & Amersfoort, NL

B.Reissland@cultureelerfgoed.nl

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