

**KING SOLOMON'S GOLDEN  
OPHIR. A RESEARCH INTO  
THE MOST ANCIENT GOLD  
PRODUCTION IN HISTORY**

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King Solomon's Golden Ophir. A Research into the Most Ancient Gold Production in History by  
Carl Peters

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Dr. Carl Peters



# KING SOLOMON'S GOLDEN OPHIR

A RESEARCH

INTO

THE MOST ANCIENT

GOLD PRODUCTION IN HISTORY



BY  
DR. CARL PETERS.



1899

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## PREFACE.

*AT a time when, more than ever, there is great striving to discover the yellow metal in all continents, it will be of double interest to find out in what part of the world the oldest mining country of history was situated. It is not only of historical interest but should prove of practical value, because there is no evidence that the ancient nations, with their primitive tools, really exhausted the gold mines they were working. The whereabouts of "King Solomon's Mines" does not appeal to the fancy alone.*

PREFACE.

*I would not dare to publish an essay on a subject which for thousands of years has been treated over and over again, were I not certain that I could add something new to the many conjectures already brought forward ; something which I think will give a clue to the unravelling of one of the oldest and greatest mysteries in the history of mankind.*

*I have much pleasure in publicly expressing my thanks to Mr. Frank Karuth, to whom I owe the following excellent translation from the German, in which language this Essay has already appeared.*

*The English edition contains a few additions to the original text.*

CARL PETERS.





## King Solomon's Golden Ophir.



THE question of Ophir rises out of the obscure vastness of primitive history into our own times like an enigma of mystery.

The question of Ophir.

Thousands of years have brooded over the position of Solomon's Ophir, and all the time it was held, that the solution of this question would throw a bright light on the political and commercial relations, that existed between the nations on the Mediterranean



and those on the Indian Ocean—on the threshold of the history of mankind.

Carl Ritter's  
Opinion.

“Out of those spaces and times,” says Carl Ritter in his *Geography*, vol. xiv, fol. 348-9, “but few hints have been transmitted to us; the most important being the record in Holy Writ of the Hiram-Solomonic voyage to Ophir. It briefly relates a fact of such significance, that, since the time of Flavius Josephus and of the Fathers of the Church, Eusebius and Hieronymus, its elucidation has exercised the ingenuity of the most celebrated and learned investigators in the most different languages and branches of science. It has offered such vast material for numerous distinct problems, that the most divergent branches of science have profited thereby, though the main question itself still remains unsolved. It has only



ripened towards one or the other extreme probability, but proof has not yet been brought, which country must be understood by the name of Ophir. For, the further we look back towards the beginning of things, the more numerous become the possibilities for their explanation from ever so many points of view, because the sum total of positive data must decrease in the ratio of the growth of our distance from the object.

“Now, even if we may say that the entire cycle of possibilities has been exhausted in the explanation of this historical tradition; exhausted from all points of view, be it the criticism of the text, or the interpretation of the objective of the voyage, or the etymological authentication and the origin of the goods brought back—but that a positive result has not been obtained; yet, that result, though negative, is neither un-