# ASSAYING: IN THREE PARTS. PARTS II AND III

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649032570

Assaying: In Three Parts. Parts II and III by C. H. Aaron

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# ASSAYING: IN THREE PARTS. PARTS II AND III

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## ASSAYING

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## THREE PARTS

PART 1st.—Gold and Silver Ores; Part 2d.—Gold and Silver Bullion; Part 3d.—Lead, Copper, Tin, Mercury, Zinc, Nickel and Cobalt, Chromium, Bismuth, Arsenic, Antimony, Sulphur, Salt.

BY C. H. AARON, METALLURGIST, AUTHOR OF "TESTING AND WORKING SILVER ORES," "LEACKING GOLD AND SILVER ORES."

PARTS II, AND III,

FOURTH EDITION.

PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY THE MINING AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS,

OF SAN FRANCISCO

1906.

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## PART II.

#### GOLD AND SILVER BULLION.

In the assay of bullion, as in that of ore, the first step is to obtain a correct sample, and for this reason it is desirable that the bars of ingots should be made in the establishment in which they are assayed; it is not often that an assayer will place his stamp on a bar without knowing to a certainty that the bar is what it purports to be. Moreover, the best sample is one that is taken from the molten metal, though this is not practised in the case of gold bullion, and it often happens that a lot of silver lead in bars, which in this country is called "base bullion," must be sampled without melting for the purpose. Silver bullion is sampled when melted, before casting. Silver lead is so sampled when practicable. Gold bullion, or base bullion in bars, is sampled by chipping or boring.\*

Gold bullion is assayed by inquartation, involving cupellation, and parting; silver bullion by cupellation or by the *humid method*; silver lead by cupellation, sometimes preceded by scorification.

Bars of bullion are called gold, doré, silver, or base.

<sup>\*</sup>Silver bars are also chipped or bored when the metal has been ladled into the moulds from a refining hearth. Pigs of lead containing precious metal are best sampled by drilling, or by means of a hollow punch, which is driven half through from top and bottom. The samples from a number of pigs are melted together at low heat under borax, and cast into a small bar. This bar is then cut in two, and slices are taken from top to bottom for the assays, of which several are made for an average.

#### ASSAVING GOLD

The first consist almost entirely of gold, with a little silver and sometimes a very little base metal. They are stamped with the gold fineness and value only, the silver being allowed for in the market price. The second contain a large proportion of gold, a considerable proportion of silver, and sometimes a little base metal. Silver bars are such as consist mainly of silver with little or no gold, nor an excess of base metal. Base bars contain a large proportion of base metal, usually lead or copper. Doré, silver and base bars are stamped with the fineness and value of the gold and of the silver. Gold bars containing more than an insignificant percentage of base metal, although not enough to degrade them to the rank of base bars, are marked B, or Base, in addition to the gold fineness and value. Such are the rules of commercial assaying on the Pacific Coast.

In order to extend the business of ore assaying to bullion assaying also, certain additional apparatus must be provided, as follows:—

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