

## Recherches Curieuses, &amp;c.

*Curious Researches of Antiquity, contained in divers Dissertations concerning Medalls, Base Reliefs, Statues, Mosaic-works, and Inscriptions of the Ancients: Enriched with a great number of Brass Cuts. By Monsr. Spon Dr. of Physick at Lyons. 1683. in quarto.*

**T**He excellent Physitian and curious Traveller Dr. Spon, having in his preface to these Researches recommended the present Age, from the good performances of the Divines and Lawyers in their respective faculties, and from the happy inventions in his own Profession, as the Circulation of the blood, the *Vena Lactea*, *Quinquina*, and several others, and also from Philosophical discoveries, such as the weight of the Air, and force of burning *Metallins* devices for Divers, &c. descends to the just praise of our late Antiquaries, *Sequien*, *Spanheim*, *Patin* and *Vaillant*, and then assures us that what he gives us in his dissertations, is altogether new, and the happy advantages of his Travels.

The Frontispeice of the book is contrived to represent divers forms of Antiquity, as the Triumphal Structure at *St. Remy* in *Provence* of the *Corinthian* order; a Female figure of exquisite *Drapery* in the same place: *Cornelia Vallecilla*: a large Urn of white Marble wreathed with Ivy and Vines, a Bird picking off the Grapes. The Noble Pyramid at *Vienna* in *Dauphine*, which our Author would have erected as a Cenotaph in honor of *Octavius Augustus*. Next the Amphitheater of *Titus* at *Rome*; which is also express in a coyn of *Alex. Severus* in the possession of *Seignior Genette*. 7. The Temple of *Juno Martialis* from the Medal of *Volusianus*. 8. *Minerva's* Temple at *Athens*, of which Dr. Spon and his noble companion *Sir George Wheeler*, treat largely in their Greek Voyages. 9. A Roman Statue at *Marseilles*. 10. The *Obelisc* lately found at *Arles*, which is fully described together with *Venus*, of the same city by Mr. *Terrein*. And  
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besides these, a Roman *Eagle*, and a very elegant Chapter observed in the ruins of *Jassus* in *Asia minor*.

1. The first dissertation of Dr. *Spon*, illustrates an Ancient round Buckler of massive Silver, fish'd out of the *Rhone* near *Avignon* 1656. of 21 pound weight, and 20 inches French in Diameter, consecrated in memory of the most vertuous *Scipio Africanus* his restoring a fair captive to *Allucius* Prince of *Celtiberia*, who had espoused her.

He upon this occasion reminds us of the Silver Buckler of *Asdrubal*, weighing 138 pounds, taken by *Lucius Martius*. The ten Silver Bucklers and one Golden of *Philip* son of *Demetrius*, which adorned the triumph of *Titus Quintius*. The 12 Silver-gilt Bucklers dedicated in the Consulate of *Junius* and *Brutus*. He also represents the forms of such votive disques from several Coyns of *Augustus*, *Tiberius* and *Vespasian*, thereby to confirm his own opinion against the ingenious Author of *Journal de Scavans*, who supposes it a Basin. This Buckler is near a 1900 years old, now in the hands of Mr. *Mey* of *Lyons*. It is charged with *Scipio* half mantled grasping his Pike; Roman officers attending, with the Bearded *Spaniards*, supplicating for the fair Virgin, (for the Romans did wear no beards from the 454 year of the city, till the Emperor *Hadrian*;) and also with the Spanish and Roman Arms.

2. The Emblematick figures, *Herma*, *Genius*, *Satyrs* & *Sylvanus*, express'd in old *Mosaic* work, 20 foot long and 10 broad, found in the Vineyard of Mr. *Cassair* of *Lyons*, cause a large discourse, as concerning the *Asarota*, or the Ancient *Greek* pavements of Stone, representing the furniture or reliques of a feast, so of the *Lithostrata*, *opera tessellata*, & *pavimenta sectilia*, making up several figures of beasts and plants, by the compacture of small divers coloured stones or glafs. Which artifices were called *Mosaic*, or *Musiva* in *Spartiani* *Pescennio*, not from *Moses*, but the *Greek* *μουσαία* and *μουσιανή*: or else because elegant pieces are attributed to the

the Muses. The rooms where the *Literati* conven'd being at first so adorned. Accordingly in the Church of *St. Irenæus* at *Lyons* is to be seen a pavement *Mosaic* of 1000 years Antiquity, which expresses Rhetorick, Logick and Ethic's. The first of these pavements amongst the *Romans*, was that of the Temple of Fortune, laid by *Sylla* 170 years before Christ's birth. Afterwards the *Roman* Generals, and particularly *Julius Cæsar* used to carry with him into the Army such piéces for the decoration of their lodgings. And of such the learned *Dr. Spon* hath found great plenty in *Greece*, and in *Italy*, and in *France*. But in special he praises, besides some late imitations at the *Goblins* in *Paris*, those in the *Dome* at *Sienna*: the grand work in the Monastery of *St. Remie* at *Rheims*: described by *Berger*: that of the Cathedral Church at *Neims*, of which see *Poldo*: and the *Mosaic* guilt of *St. Mark's* at *Venice*. And then concludes with some inscriptions to *Sylvanus*, and others touching *Opera Albaria & Quadrataria*.

3 Next follows his discourse on the *Palmyrene* Figures and inscriptions, preserved at *Rome* in Greek and Syriack. The former to this sense: To the honour of *Aglebolus* and *Malachbelus*, that is the Sun and Moon according to our Author, the *Deities* of his country *L. Aurelius Heliodorus*, son of *Antiochus* of *Palmyra* or *Hadriana*, dedicated this Marble, and a Statue of Silver, or Signum with its ornature, for the preservation of himself, his wife, and children, on the month *Peritius* (or *February*) in the (*Seleucian*) year 547. under the Emperor *Aurelian*, 40 years before *Cenobia*, the valiant, learned, and beautiful Queen of the aforesaid *Palmyra*; to whose time *Mr. Petite* refers that Inscription in his explication of the Syriack writing. Wherein he hath not satisfied the curious *Mr. Galland*: because it is more then probable the Syriack expresses the same with the Greek. As we see several Roman Monuments bear the same sense both in Greek and in Latin. And *Dr. Spon* gives us another Inscription with the figure of the Sun, and an *Eagle* at his breast, consecrated

crated by *Claudius felix Calbiensis* in the Latine and Palmyrene Languages. Then concludes with several Marble dedications *SOLI INVICTO MITHRAE* not before publish'd; noting out of *Lactantius*, that the *Persians* represented their Mithra by a Lyons head Crown'd.

4. The fourth dissertation explaineth the excellent Monument at *Rome* of the *Fratres Arvales*: concerning their offering, for the prosperity of the Emperor *Vespasian* and his son *Titus*; a Bull to *Jupiter*: to Queen *Juno*, *Minerva*, & *Salus* a Cow to each; and admires the zeal of *Nestor* and his *Pylans*, in offering no less then 45000 Oxen to *Neptune*.

5. The marriage of *Cupid* and *Psyche* is celebrated in his fifth dissertation, taken from a Gemme of *Mr. de Bagaris*, the work of *Trypho*. Where *Psyche*, or the soul, winged like a Butterflie ( which is also ψυχη amongst the Greeks, ) leads his vail'd Bride, the emblem of the Passions, by an Indissoluble chain on his right hand, and a Flambeau in the left. Then he gives us three or four Cuts more, where the departing soul, *par levibus ventis volucrique simillima somno*, is represented by a Butterflie upon the wing: animadverting that in some Roman Monuments, *Psyche* is made the Bride and embraced by *Cupid*, the mind by the brutal soul; of which see *Fulgentius* & *Epiphanius Her.* 36.

6 The next Plate furnishes us with divers Statues without arms and heads, mounted upon square Pillars called *Hermæ* & *Termini*, from the figures of *Mercurius Trivius*. With these *Athens* abounded, and to this day *Rome* shews several Greek Captains, Poets and Philosophers in that forme. In special the *Hermanubis* with *vota publica*, in a Coyne of *Julian* the Emperor and Philosopher, is worth notice: being headed like a dog, and bearing in the right hand a *Sistrum*, in the left a *Caduceus*, and on his shoulders a *Mantle*. To which fashion *Tertullian* alludes in his jest upon the Senator, *Nunc quoque cum sistro faciem portare caninam*. On the reverse is the *Apostate* bearded as he lov'd, with a

*Modius* upon his head, as befitting the inscription, *Deo Serapidi*. Likewise the figure of the *Herma thenæ* is rare, though the name be frequent. He ends his dissertation with a remark of *Salmafius*, that amongst the Antients many Gods were of both Sexes. As *Luna* & *Lunus*, *Bacchus* & *Baccha*, *Liber* & *Libera* or *Ceres*: *Aphroditus* & *Aphrodita*, and thence *Hermaphrodita*; and in Latine *Venus mas* & *femina*.

7. After he treats of the Egyptian *Harpocrates* & *Hermarpocrates*: with his fore finger on his mouth, fitting sometimes upon an *Estrich*, commonly on the *Lotus* tree, surrounded in some gems with the Planets in form of Birds moving in *liquid Æther*: and with Characters, partly Greek, partly Egyptian, according to the fancy of the *Gnostics*, of which see *Macarii Abraxas*. To these he subjoynes *Signa Panthea*, and Statues of *Isis*, *una que erat omnia dea*: and tells us that upon the walls of *Hadrianople*, he espied the following inscription concerning providence, *ἐπισκεψαι ἐπισκεψαι ἢ πόλιν σου.*

8 The *Cymbala* of the Ancients were two hallow *hemispheres* of Brass or silver, struck one against the other, used most in the dances of the *Phrygian Cybele*. But the *Crumata* and *Crotala* were like our *Castanets*: to which answered the *Crupfia* and *Scabella*, for the feet. The *Tympana*, our *Timbrels*, were a *Syrian* invention. The *Cithara* a triangular *Harp*, the *Lyra*, one bounded with *SS.* as commonly in the Statues of *Apollo*, and the *Sistrum*, in shape like a *Racquet*, crossed with three loose wires of Brass, proper to the ceremonies of *Isis*.

9. The square house at *Neims*, 74 foot long, and 41 and a half broad, was not built for a *Prætorium*, or a *Capitol* or *Council-house*, as *Poldo d'Albenas* conceiv'd. But by the front with its *Tympanum*, and by the number of its Pillars, 6 in front, and on each side 11, appears to be a *Temple*: not unlike that of *Minerva* and *Theseus* at *Athens*, the *Porch* or *Pronaon* being one third of the whole length. The like is to be said touching *Notredame*  
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*delavie* at *Vienna* in *France*: namely that it was a Temple of the *Columnage* called *Monopteros*.

10. This dissertation comprises the judgment of the excellent Mr. *de Pyresc* concerning the marriage Ring of *Tecla*; of an ounce weight in Gold, and inscrib'd *Tec-la vivat Deo feo*, as the Christian then did clinch.

11 There was found at *Lyons* four years agoe, a thumb Ring of Gold of one *Memorinus*, weighing four Luydors and a half. Which confirms what *Pliny* saith *lib. 33.* that the *Romans* at length esteemed themselves from the weight of their Gold rings: which were before the honour of Embassadours only, the rest wearing Iron. Whence Dr. *Spon* refers us to *Gorleus's Dactylotheca*, *Abraxas Chiffletii*, and the Inventorie of the famous *Pyrescius*; where amongst others was a Brass Ring bearing a Medal of *Julian* the Emperor, whose reverse was *Isis Faria*.

The 12. explains an elegant Medal of *Severus* and his Lady *Julia Domna*: not *Domina*, for *Salmasius* will have it a Syriack word. She is thus stil'd as in many Medals, so in a fair Inscription in the *Galerie* of the *Duke* of *Tuscany*, brought thither from *Tunis*. On the reverse, the furious God of Wine, in a Charet triumphs over the Orient, (which *Severus* also conquer'd) drawn by a pair of *Leopards*, and himself bearing a *Leopards* skin on his left, and a pot in his right hand; coyn'd at *Seleucia* upon *Palycadnus*. This chapter ends with a good Monument of *Severus* found near *Sidon* in *Syria*.

13. Of ancient pictures, which are rarely found: and only in water colours, ( for oyl painting is but a late invention ) this worthy Phisitian mentions the nuptials in *hortis Aldobrandinis*; & *Rome triumphant*, lately found in the *Sepulcher* of the *Nasonian* family, near to the *Amphitheater* of *Titus*, and represented to the publick by *Bellonius*. Where you have *Roma victrix*, sitting with a

**Pike** amongst several other Arms: not unlike *Minerva* (as she is also exprest in Coyns both Latin and Greek, and Soldiers attending. One of which holds *basta pura* in his left hand, and leads with his right an horse, without saddle or stirrups. The want of which, *Hippocrates* and *Galene* make the cause of several pains and maladies in the legs, which the Scythians and Romans were afflicted with. Before this triumphant horse are two *Lictores* with their faces, which were instruments both of State and Justice, and served to these severe sentences: *Colliga manus, virgis cade, plebte securi*. Of these the Dictators had 24, the Consuls 12, the Proconsuls 6, and the *Prætores Urbium* 2.

14. This treats of a *navis Frumentaria*, or the reverse of a rare Coyn of *Commodus*; who every year sent Victualers to *Africa*, as *Lampridius* assures us.

13. The next is the learned Mr. *Galland* his accurate description of a Coyn of *Tribonian*, sent from *Smyrna* to *Paris*: which bears *Apollo Clarius* with his *Lyre* within a four columned Temple, and an Ox at his Altar. Then for *Smyrna* and the 12 Cities of *Jonia*, persons with their hands lift up, τὸ κοινὸν ἰώνων, as the Coyns calls them: in the Rimme whereof we read, ὅτι κλ. ἀεστῶνος ἱερέως ἰώνων κολοφωνίων. Likewise a Medal of the *Antonines*, κοινὸν 17. πόλεων πρέδικος καὶ φρόντων αρ. ζ. καὶ ἀστιαρχ. 17. πόλεων.

16. You have the letter of the excellent *Fr. Redi* of *Florence*, that Spectacles were invented about the year 1300. from the testimony of a Chronicle of the convent of *St. Catherina* at *Pisa*, Anno 1313. *Frater Alexander de Spina vir modestus & bonus, quocunque vidit aut audivit facta, scivit et facere. Ocularia ab aliquo primo facta & communicare nolente, ipse fecit, & communicavit corde hilari & volente.* And from the preamble of a treatise made Anno 1299. *di governo della famiglia de Scandro di Pipozzo. Mi truovo così gravoso di anni che non arei valenza di leggere e scrivere sanza vetri appellati Okiali trovati novellamente per*

*per commodita delli pouveri ueki, quando affiebolano del vedere.* And also from a Sermon of Fryar Jordan de Rivalto that died at Placenza Anno 1311. which is quoted in the Dictionary de la Crusca, in the word *Occhiale*, viz. It is not 20 years since the Art of making Spectacles was found out, which much mends the sight: and is indeed one of the best and most necessary inventions in the world. Soone after 1305. Mr Bernard Gordon in his *Lilium medicinæ* thus commends a certain Eye-salve: *Et est tantæ virtutis, quod decrepitem faceret legere literas minutas absque ocularibus.* And Anno 1363. Guido the Chirurgian, after proposing several *Collyria*, saith: If these or the like will not do, you must make use of Spectacles.

17 This renders an account to the most illustrious *Angelo Maurofini*, of *Antoninus Pius* his Braés Coyn, from his Cabinet, presenting the three Godeffes on mount *Ida*, and *Mercury* with the Shepherd *Paris* standing below, having on a *Phrygian* Cap, not unlike the *Ducal* Crown of *Venice*.

18 The *Dij manes* employ this dissertation, being rather a Roman than a Grecian superstition; whence the *Anthropomorphites* took their Hæresie.

19. The Brazen Urn of most elegant *Sculpture* here described, Dr. *Spon* gave to Mr. *Galliard*, and for this cause treats at large of *Sepuchrale Urnes*: whereby (after the Romans had introduc'd from *Greece* the fashion of burning their dead) both infection was avoided, and the ashes of their friends preserved in the family. They likewise sometimes made use of *Abestos* and *Amianthus*, spun into thread for napkins, to preserve in the midst of the flames the separate and intire ashes of their relations. Dr. *Gunebault*, who hath described the Tomb of *Chyndonax*, saw in a Venetian cabinet a quarter of an ell of that Linnen. Such stones are frequent enough in *Ne-*



*gropont*, *Cypros*, *Tenos*, and other places. Yet the Romans were not very careful to separate the humane ashes from the rest; but put sometimes coals and all into the Urn. The Urns of King *Demetrius*, and the Emperour *Trajan* were of Gold, and that found of late under the stately Column that yet bears the name of *Marcellus*, was of Silver. The Emperour *Severus's* was of Gold, or according to *Dio of Porphyrie*: or of *Alabaster* as *Herodian* reports, which that Emperour provided beforehand. Urns of glass are frequent in the Cabinets of the curious. The most common are potters earth: and I have seen great numbers of them at *Rome* of Stone and Metal, and of Marble. The Urns are of all figures, but usually round and bellyed: those of Metal are generally are embellisht with Sculpture and Basereleifs. Mr. *Dafour* hath received two from *Egypt* of Pot-earth beset with Hieroglyphicks, and fill'd with Mummie: which is rare enough from that place where embalming was of general use. These Urns for persons of quallity were either set under Marble Monuments, or else in the niches of Sepulchral Vaults. Such as that at *Neims*, supposed to be the Charnal of the *Antonine* family. Not far from *Droll*, at the opening of an Hillock or Burrough, (of which there are two or three thereabouts) under a heap of loose stones were found several Earthen and Glass Urns full of ashes; and also many small links of Gold, supposed to be the reliques of the antient *Gauls*.

The 20. is the Monument of the noble *Poncius* son of *Ildefonsus* at *Neimes*, *Anno Dom.* 1203.

The one and twentieth is a Female head of brass bigger then the life, bearing a tower: which was dug out of Mr. *Berriers* house near St. *Eustache* at *Paris*; supposed to be *Isis*, the Titular Goddeffs of the City, whose ancient Arms was accordingly a Ship. For *Isis* was President of the Sea. And when *Childebert* built the Abby  
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of *St. German* near the place where *Isis* Temple stood, he put her Idol in a hole of the wall, which remaind till 1514. Whence in the old Charter the Abby is said to be founded, *in urbe Parisiaca prope muros civitatis in terra, quæ aspectat ad fiscum Ifiacensem.* So that the Doctor would have *Paris* come from *Isis*. As *Lutetia* or *Lucotetia* from *Lutes*. Then follows a very learned discourse of the excellent Mr. *Fesche*, concerning a rare Coyn of *Pylæmenes Evergeta*, King of *Paphlagonia* and a friend to the *Romans*, imprest with an *Ox head*. Both which he refers to *Isis*: because the *Paphlagonians* came originally from *Egypt*. *Pylæmenes* being from the time of *Homer* the usual name of the Kings of that Country. As *Ariarathes* of the *Cappadocians*, *Arfaces* of the *Parthians*, *Abgarus* of the *Osrhoenians*, *Mithridates* of the *Pantics*, and *Sylvius* for *Alba longa*: and *Evergetes*, an *Epithete* much affected by the Kings of *Egypt*, *Syria*, and *Asia*, both greater and lesser; like as *Orosanges* amongst the *Persians*, with which *Artaxerxes* honoured *Mordacai*.

23. This expounds a large Inscription in the Palace *Pa-lestrine* at *Rome*, of a certain Hospitable Colledge, instituted and endowed in the Temple of *Esculapius*, by *Salvia Marcellina*, Anno Dom. 134. full fraught with subjects of Antiquity and Chronology. And also a large Monument at *Puteoli*, of the Colledge of the *Dendrophori*, or *Woodmongers* styl'd *Fabri Dendrofori*, in a Roman inscription. Such were the *Carpenters* or *Tectones* condemn'd by the *Theodosian Code*: though *Salmasius* makes them a superstitious Convention.

From the 24 dissertation we learn the use of ancient Medals, Pictures and Statues, ( of which *Varro*, *J. Cesar*, and *Alex. Severus* were great Collectors ) as to other Studies, so especially to *Physiognomy*. Nature having im-  
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printed in the countenance certain Airs and conformations, which discover the grand inclinations of the mind. In this Art the famous *Campanella* was a great master, as Mr. *Choner* relates in the life of *Boisot*. Hence *Nicius Erythraeus* tells us, that *B. Stephanus* the Poet had the same features with the Statues of *Virgil*. Others observe, that *Numa Pompilius* and *Antoninus Pius* resembled each other in face and manners. And that the Chancellor *Hospitalius*, a great Philosopher, was like the figure of *Aristotle*. The face of *Alexander M.* upon his Coyns, his eyes set high and great, with his chin thrust out, speak him haughty, earnest, and courageous, as *Plutarch* remark'd from the Physiognomists. The frizld hair of *Pompey*, and his forward countenance, shew his stoutness and ambition. The temperament and disposition of *J. Caesar* is read in his Coynes, as diverse have observed, and at length Dr. *Andreas* out of *Argoli*. *Marc. Antoninus* his double chin shews his love of pleasure. The Air of King *Juba* argues him cruel and arrogant. The good features of *Augustus* declare an excellent mind, a mixture of sweetness and prudence and courage. The little eyes of *Nero*, his thick neck, his throat and chin conjoin'd, were no good signs to the Romans: and the stature of *Maximinus* and narrow chin bespake his cruelty.

25. Here Mr. *Labruno* gives at large the *Rabbines* sentiments concerning the miraculous Rod of *Moses*. *Jonathan Benuziel*, and the Author of *Zohar* with others, ascribe the wonders done by the Law-giver unto the name of God ingraved upon that Staff; to omit here the fable of an ancient *Medras*.

26. The *Cyzicens* noted for dancing, have left a Medal in honor of *Anton. Caracalla*; with the figure of Rop e-dancing. Asport very ancient both among the Greeks and Latines, as *Terence*, *Manilius*, *Horace*, and others testify. Nay *Elephants*, the greatest and most

most ingenious of Land animals, did shew the Roman people, as *Pliny*, *Suetonius*, and others attest.

27 In this discourse Dr. *Spon* vindicates his own profession as practis'd at *Rome*, both from servility and banishment: by the known esteem and honor of *Eudemus*, both friend and Physician of *Augustus*. So of *Dioscorides*, citizen of *Rome* by the name of *Pedanius*. Of *Antonius Musa* and of *Pallas*, and *Narcissus* in the Court of *Claudius*. By the skill of three Kings *Mithridates Juba*, and *Evax*. Of *Caius Calpurnius Asclepiades*, rewarded by *Trajan* with the revenues of seven Cities. Of *Galenus*, and also *Oribasius*, who obtained the favour and rescript of *Julian* the Emperor. Though one passage or two in *Suetonius's Caligula* and *Nero*, and that of *Cato* in *Plinies* History, do favour the opinion of *Robertellus* and *Ferretus*.

28. This discourse treats of two excellent Coyns of *Malta*, which *Ile* the *Phenicians* first inhabited, and dedicated, together with a fair Temple, to *Juno* or *Melitta*: whose head Mr. *Challon* supposes to be represented in the Medals. But they are both *Egyptian*. The female figures, *Isis*: And the four wing'd and mitred, the God *Mithras* or *Osiris*. Which is confirmed by two brass Idols sent from *Egypt* to the worthy Mr. *Dufour*, the one of *Osiris*, the other of *Isis*, giving suck to her son *Orus*. The like of Marble are often found with the Mummies.

29. A certain font at *Gaunt* near *Naples*, represents in most ancient and elegant Sculpture Nymphs attending at the birth of *Bacchus*, with *σουλπίων ἀβλαύτης ἐποίησε*. Next the Dr. gives us a fair monument of *Silenus*, and some *Perinthian* Coyns relating to the Baskets, Serpents, and other mysteries of *Bacchus*: and concludes with old monuments of the Nymphs.

The 30. discourse is of the Origine and use of *Strenæ*, *ἀπαρχισμοί, ξένια*, or New year gift.

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The 31. concerning the false prophet *Alexander* in *Lucian*, which dialogue he explains, from two Coyns of the *ἰωνοπολίτου ἀβροῦταιχίτου*. Where also the name of *Glycon*, and a serpent in one with a head of a man, and the other with that of a Dog, stamp'd under *Antoninus Pius*, and under *Lucius Verus*, when the *Paphlagonian* impostor liv'd. Now the Serpents were the Arms as well of the city *Abonoteichos*, as of the God *Esculapius*, as *Ovid*, *Virgil*; as also diverse Medals do evidence. The ingenious and learned Author concludes his book with some rare Coyns of *Esculapius*.

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