Lazarus Ercker Encyclopedia Article

Lazarus Ercker

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Lazarus Ercker

c. 1530-1594

Bohemian metallurgist whose *Beschreibung allerfürnemisten mineralischen Ertzt und Berckwerksarten* (1574) was the first systematic treatment of analytical and metallurgical chemistry. In it he reviews methods for obtaining, refining, and testing alloys and minerals of silver, gold, copper, antimony, bismuth, lead, and mercury as well as acids, salts, and other compounds including methods for purifying saltpeter. He also discusses the design and construction of apparati for assaying such as the cupel, furnaces, and assaying balance.