

1910

The losses of gold during cupellation using various makes of cupels

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THESIS

for the Degree of

Bachelor of Science.

T 217

1910.

THE LOSSES OF GOLD DURING CUPELLATION
USING VARIOUS MAKES OF CUPELS.

BY

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OK - A.P. Mauro

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There are on the market various cupels. Many of the assay-supply firms sell a "manufactured" cupel, presumably made of bone-ash. The great majority of all cupels used, are made of bone-ash in the assay office itself.

The object of this work is to compare the losses of gold when the various patented, the various manufactured and the ordinary hand made cupels are used.

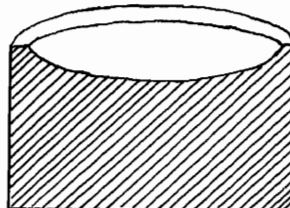
Four different makes of cupels were used.

No.1. A manufactured bone-ash cupel made by the Denver

Fireclay Co.

Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

Weight 42 grm.

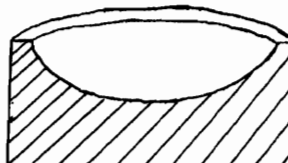


No.2. A manufactured bone-ash cupel from the Henry

Heil Chemical Co.

Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

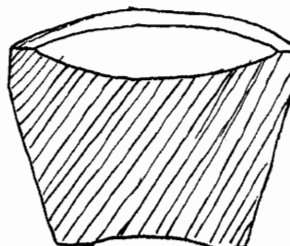
Weight 30 grm.



No.3. A patented Morganite cupel.

Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

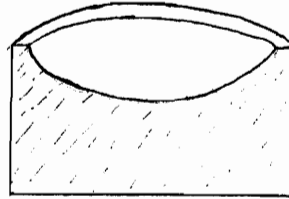
Weight 62 grm.



No.4. A hand made bone-ash cupel, air dried for five months before using.

Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ ---

Height 45mm .



Cupels No.3. had the greatest hardness, and No.2., No.1., and No.4. follow in the order given, as to hardness.

THE PURE GOLD.

Gold already nearly pure^e was inquarted with four times the weight of silver. The resulting button was then parted with $\text{HNO}_3(2\text{H}_2\text{O to 1 HNO}_3)$. The gold, after annealing, was sponge like, and could easily be broken up for weighing.

The amount of gold used in each cupelation was between 19 and 20 mgs. Each gold sample was weighed to the nearest $1/100$ mgm., and the gold was considered pure.

THE LEAD USED.

Three hundred grams of the sheet lead ^{were} ~~was~~ scorified to about 10 grams and cupeled. No gold or silver resulted from this test. The lead was therefore used as silver-gold free.

All cupelations were made in a coal fired muffle furnace with ordinary draft.

The cupels were put into the muffle and heated from five to ten minutes, four rows of five each being cupeled at the same time in each muffle. Temperatures were taken after the buttons had started to drive and after they had blicked, giving the average temperature of the muffle during the process of cupelation. The temperatures were taken about 1/4" above the top of the cupels. A Platinum - Rhodium thermo junction being used for this purpose.

The time of cupelation in nearly every case was between 16 and 20 minutes from the time of the start of driving, to the time of blicking.

All beads in the bone-ash cupel after blicking were spherical on a very small axis, and appeared to be much brighter than those in the patented cupels. The beads in the latter cupels seemed to flatten out somewhat, after blicking, and in some instances they seemed to show some indications of a sprouting action but appeared to have been depressed to some extent.

The accompanying tables give the results obtained by the tests performed. The curves show the average loss at each temperature. The average losses with each succeeding temperature is found in Table No.1.

TABLE NO.1.

<u>Temp.</u>	<u>No.1.</u>	<u>No.2.</u>	<u>No.3.</u>	<u>No.4.</u>
720°C	-----	-----	0.15%	0.35%
730°C	6.43%	-----	0.16%	-----
740°C	-----	-----	0.28%	-----
745°C	-----	-----	-----	0.40%
750°C	0.51%	-----	0.32%	-----
760°C	0.73%	0.35%	0.23%	0.36%
770°C	-----	0.45%	0.56%	-----
780°C	0.72%	0.68%	0.32%	0.48%
790°C	-----	0.61%	0.63%	0.70%
800°C	1.91%	0.85%	1.64%	1.35%

CONCLUSIONS.

A comparison of the curves plotted show, that while a loss in the patented is very low, it is also very erratic, giving a small loss at one temperature, and a much greater loss at another temperature.

The loss in the manufactured bone-ash cupels is greater than the loss in the patented cupels and is also very irregular, but follow a more consistent curve, due to increase in temperature, than the patented cupels.

Cupel No.4., which is the hand made bone-ash cupel, shows a much more even loss, due to varying temperatures, also a loss which is lower than the manufactured cupels, and very little higher than the patented cupel.

From the fore-going, it appears, that while the Morganite Cupel gives a slightly smaller loss than the hand made bone-ash cupel, the results are more erratic, and that for practical work the hand cupel is the preferable.

No	Wt. Au	Wt. button	Loss	% Loss	Temp	Temp. time	No	Wt. Au	Wt. button	Loss	% Loss	Temp	Temp. time	No	Wt. Au	Wt. button	Loss	% Loss	Temp	Temp. time
161	19.26	19.09	.07	.35	720	16.30	257	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	16.30	258	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	16.30
162	19.24	19.07	.07	.35	720	"	258	19.17	19.00	.17	.88	720	"	259	19.27	19.10	.17	.88	720	"
163	19.17	19.15	.02	.15	751	"	259	19.30	19.13	.17	.88	720	"	260	19.17	19.00	.17	.88	720	"
164	19.24	19.19	.05	.25	745	"	260	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	261	19.10	18.93	.17	.88	720	"
165	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	261	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	262	19.25	19.08	.17	.88	720	"
166	19.16	19.09	.07	.35	720	"	262	19.00	18.83	.17	.88	720	"	263	19.10	18.93	.17	.88	720	"
167	19.22	19.19	.03	.15	722	"	263	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	264	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"
168	19.19	19.09	.10	.52	745	"	264	19.25	19.08	.17	.88	720	"	265	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"
169	19.01	19.05	.04	.21	720	"	265	19.22	19.05	.17	.88	720	"	266	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
170	19.00	19.05	.05	.25	720	"	266	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	267	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
171	19.24	19.19	.05	.25	720	"	267	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	268	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"
172	19.20	19.21	.01	.05	745	"	268	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	269	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
173	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	269	19.20	19.03	.17	.88	720	"	270	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
174	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	270	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	271	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
175	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	271	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	272	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
176	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	272	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	273	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
177	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	273	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	274	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
178	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	274	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	275	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
179	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	275	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	276	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"
180	19.25	19.25	.00	0.00	745	"	276	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"	277	19.21	19.04	.17	.88	720	"

* High Results - due to subnormal assay

Notice -
The plotted curves and the explanatory matter incidental to the chart will be found on sheet #5 of this series of blue prints. The sizes and nature of the different kinds of cubets used will also be noted.

B.H. Dosenbach

Temperature.

800
790
780
770
760
750
740
730
720

0.25 0.5 0.75 1.0 1.25 1.5 1.75

Cupel No. 1 ----- Curve E
Cupel No. 2 ----- Curve B
Cupel No. 3 ----- Curve C
Cupel No. 4 ----- Curve F

Plotted by
B.H. Dassenbock

