

JOHN OLIVER'S
POSTOJNSKA JAMA
OF 1856



with an introduction by
Trevor Shaw

A
Description
of the
CAVERNS OF ADELSBERG
in
CARNIOLIA, South AUSTRIA ;
being an Adaptation of
ALOIS SCHAFFENRATH'S
Beschreibung der berühmten Grotte
bei Adelsberg :
together with
Illustrations & Supplementary Notes
from various Sources.

ENGEL

Compiled, Translated and Arranged
BY
JOHN OLIVER,
who visited these Caverns
in
1838.

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POSTOJNSKA JAMA
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The book contains a facsimile of the manuscript by John Oliver:

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INTRODUCTION

by Trevor Shaw

Postojnska jama is the subject of the very large manuscript volume by John Oliver, reproduced here in facsimile. It was written, or at least completed, in 1856 and he himself had visited the cave in 1837 (not 1838) and again in 1852. He says little about his own experiences though, for more than half of the book consists of his translation into English of Schaffenrath's 1834 guidebook, *Beschreibung der berühmten Grotte bei Adelsberg in Krain*. Oliver adds many footnotes to the main text and also refers there to longer notes written in a separate appendix which includes extracts from later writings about the cave. The appendix also contains some of his own personal comments and observations.

This introduction considers the identity and life of John Oliver and briefly describes the manuscript itself. Then Schaffenrath's original guide is examined in some detail and Oliver's own additions are noted.

First the volume itself is described – its physical aspects: size, binding, format and layout. Then comes what little is known about the history of the volume, its previous owners, etc. John Oliver himself is then identified, for there were two possible John Olivers to consider, and his life is described. Before continuing to his own visits, the cave is introduced – quite briefly as it is the subject of the book itself. The dates of his visits are deduced, as is the time that he actually wrote and completed the text. As Oliver gives almost no information about his own visits, it seems advisable to provide extracts from some other visitors' accounts of about the same period. Their descriptions of the arrangements at the cave, the guides and the lighting help to give an idea of what Oliver himself experienced.

As the main reason for this facsimile being published is to make available Alois Schaffenrath's important guidebook of 1834, he himself is then introduced. It was he, as a civil engineer, who arranged all the paths and the bridges in the cave after the 1818 discovery of most of the passages known today. He was also the artist who in 1821 made water-colours of scenes in the cave which were the source of the engravings published in 1830 and 1832 that Oliver incorporated in this volume. The 1834 Schaffenrath guidebook was subsequently revised and updated and his writing could still be recognized in the anonymous guidebooks of the 1870s, long after his death. The content of the 1834 original

is discussed and some of the most interesting facts in it are reprinted in a later section of this introduction.

Oliver's own contribution to the book, in addition to his labour of translating it, is then considered. It is all there in the facsimile of course, but this introduction aims to draw out some of the more interesting items of his input. One subject of special interest is his relationship with Professor Adolf Schmidl, whom he seemed heartily to dislike, though whether they ever met is not known. Two other most important of his contributions are original pictures. One is a Rieger painting, otherwise unknown; and the other is a drawing of the amphibious animal *Proteus*, endemic in this region. One of the two *Proteus* shown in the drawing is of dark colour, a rarity which had usually been regarded (if at all) as a historical oddity until some specimens were found in 1986.

This introduction thus falls naturally into two parts: on Oliver's own visits, about which we know very little; and on Schaffenrath's book, now made widely available for the first time.

The manuscript volume reproduced here has been mentioned several times in recent years. It was the subject of a conference lecture in 1979 which was printed in 1981¹ when much less was known about it than now. It has since been made better known in some recent books about early visitors to the cave^{2,3}.

The names that Oliver uses for parts of the cave, The Curtain for example, are his translation from the German ones used by Schaffenrath and some of them are unfamiliar today⁴. The problem is compounded by the fact that many of these names, those used for places now passed at speed by the tourist train, were named and pointed out by the guides in 1834 but are little used today. To make clear which places he is referring to, the Glossary at the end of this introduction lists alphabetically the English names used by Oliver, each followed by Schaffenrath's German original and then the Slovene name (which is not always a translation of the German). Where there is no Slovene name currently in use, former ones are taken from early Slovene language guides, such as Costa's of 1863⁵. Oliver himself often repeats Schaffenrath's equivalent German names, but he never gives the Slovene ones.

THE BOOK ITSELF

The manuscript itself is large, the oblong covers being 400 mm tall and 564 mm long. The present covers are exact replicas (made in 1983) of the originals, with cloth boards half bound in green leather and the original green leather label on the front lettered in gold “DESCRIPTION OF THE ADELSBERG CAVERNS”.

The volume is not a collection of manuscript leaves subsequently bound together but a book containing cream leaves of wove paper (no watermark) with faint blue horizontal ruling and with border and column rules in red. These main text leaves measure 388 mm by 542 mm. That the book already existed before the manuscript was written is confirmed by the facts that stains from the original oil paint used to highlight water in many of the engravings have offset into the following leaves and also that there are five fully ruled blank leaves after the text ends.

As can be seen, the manuscript on these large pages is in a clear copperplate script arranged in two columns. The “Appendix”, bound in near the end of the main text, is a small notebook (200 mm by 170 mm) of 59 pages. It is written in Oliver’s normal cursive handwriting. The title page of the manuscript (repeated as a frontispiece before this introduction) is in a curious mixture of roman, italic and gothic lettering.

The main copperplate text on the large pages is mainly Oliver’s translation of Schaffenrath’s guidebook. His footnotes, containing extracts from Hohenwart’s illustrated book of 1830-1832 on Postojnska jama⁶ and Murray’s *Handbook ...* of 1850⁷ for the region, as well as from other books, are in the same script and were evidently written at the same time. Oliver’s description of his own visit to the cave of Vilenica in 1837 also forms part of the main copperplate text.

The “Appendix” contains the remainder of Oliver’s own remarks and observations. Each section of it is linked to some point in the main text, as “Note c”, etc. The first page of the appendix states that it is based on Schmidl’s book⁸ but it does contain more besides.

The ink page numbers of the main text are original. The fainter pencilled leaf numbers are recent and run continuously through the whole volume.

The text is lavishly illustrated by 27 published images, one original oil painting, one original water-colour, a map, two plans and one facsimile of names. The two original images are described in separate sections later in this introduction.

From Schaffenrath’s 1834 guidebook, both illustrations have been cut out and mounted – his lithograph of the Vorhang (Curtain) and Oliver’s translated version of the 1834 cave plan by Fercher. Schaffenrath’s water-colours of 1821 are the bases for the 16

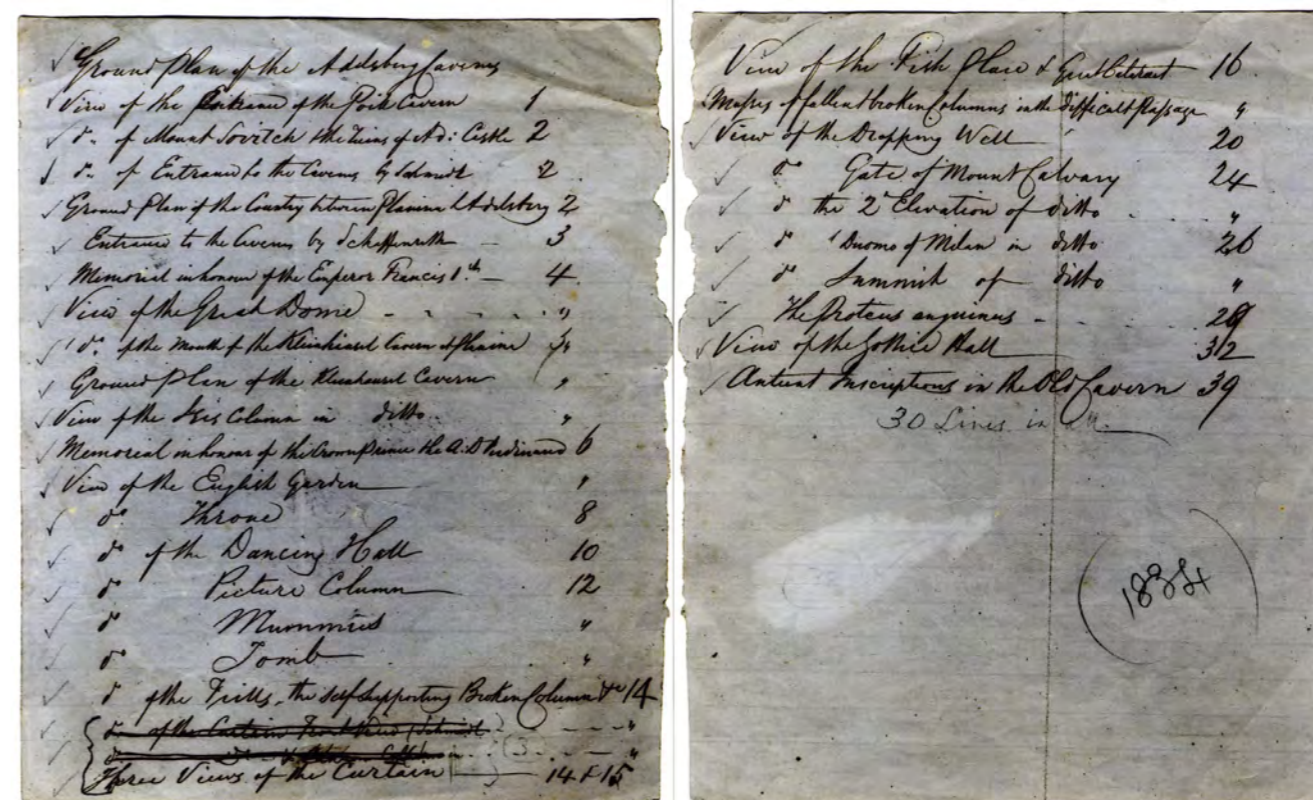


Fig. 1 Both sides of a loose sheet of paper (196 x 160 mm) on which Oliver listed the illustrations to be added to his manuscript and their page numbers

engraved images in Hohenwart’s 1830-32 book⁶, all of which have been inserted here, cut to size and mounted on the large pages of the manuscript volume. Some have been surrounded by black ink ruled lines. The cave plan from Hohenwart’s book has not been used but the plate showing early inscriptions on the cave walls is included. Ten lithograph plates from the atlas volume of Schmidl’s main book⁸ have been included, three of them left on their original leaves and the rest cut out and mounted. Schmidl’s plan of Planinska jama is included but not his other plans and not his lithographs of the Predjama cave.

A separate list of these images in the sequence in which they were used in the volume was written by Oliver as he planned their insertion. This list was found loose in the book and is reproduced here as Fig. 1.

In many of the Schaffenrath images and in some of Schmidl’s, water surfaces have been accentuated by oil paint which was once of a blue colour. Oxidation of the oil has caused the colour to turn brown⁹ and some of the oil has offset on to the facing page. The surface of the paint is quite glossy and shines in oblique light.

THE BOOK'S PREVIOUS LIFE

Almost nothing is known about the first decades of the book's existence. John Oliver died in 1883 and his will named his son William as his executor. William had power to give "such property of a household nature" away, to sell it or to keep it. What action he took we do not know.

The book itself bears no indication of early ownership and there is no evidence of it being sold at auction in London after 1902¹⁰.

The first clue to ownership that we have is the presence of the initials "J.W.P." (Fig. 2) on the margin of the unnumbered page opposite p. 7, on which Rieger's painting is mounted. Not only are these the initial letters of the names James William Puttrell (1863-



Fig. 2 J.W. Puttrell's initials on the mount of the Rieger painting

1939) but comparison with known examples of his signature indicates that they are his initials as he wrote them. The leaf bearing the painting is an integral part of the book and cannot have been inserted after its completion so it is evident that Puttrell must have been the owner of the book at one time.

Puttrell (Figs. 3 and 4) was a well-known rock climber, mainly in England and Wales, and a cave explorer principally in the English county of Derbyshire¹¹. He made a series of radio talks between 1926 and 1931 about his exploits and one of these¹², broadcast on 10 July 1928, described a tour he made in Austria and Jugoslavia in the spring and early summer of that year when he was 59. In the course of this he went to Bled, Ljubljana, Rakek and Škocjan and visited the caves Postojnska jama¹³ and Divaška jama. His name does not appear in the Postojna visitors' book. Puttrell had been interested in caves for many years before that but it was this visit that made him familiar with the "Adelsberger Grotte".

There is no reason to suppose that Puttrell bought the Oliver book in Slovenia, for it had almost certainly remained in England where it was created.

Another English cave explorer, Eli Simpson (1884-1962) (Fig. 5), is known to have possessed the book from before 1948 until his death. Simpson and Puttrell knew each other from their common interest in caves and were good friends from the early 1900s¹⁵. It is probable, therefore that Simpson acquired the book when Puttrell died on



Fig. 3 Puttrell outside a newly discovered upper entrance to Peak Cavern on 1 March 1902. Photo by Bamforth.



Fig. 4 Puttrell, aged 70, on 7 June 1939. Reproduced from Sheffield Central Library 914.251 SQ. with permission

14 August 1939, or even before as Puttrell's interest was predominantly in English caves. Simpson had been one of the founders of the British Speleological Association in 1936 and was its "recorder" and archivist. When I knew him from 1948 onwards, he lived in the Association's headquarters in Duke Street, Settle in Yorkshire. The Association's library was housed in the same building but its books were marked accordingly and the Oliver book belonged to Simpson himself.

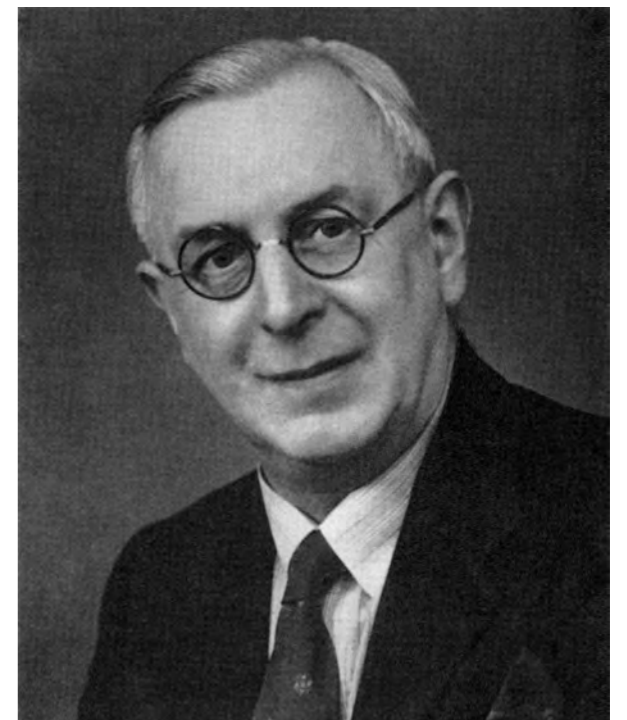


Fig. 5 Eli Simpson¹⁴

JOHN OLIVER HIMSELF

When Simpson died on 1 February 1962 he left his own books to his friend Christene Margaret Rawdin (1913-1999), the Association's secretary. She sold them soon afterwards to Hollett, the antiquarian bookseller in Sedbergh¹⁵, and it next appeared in 1976 when the Bristol bookseller A.R. (Tony) Heath bought it from Booth's bookshop in Hay-on-Wye and sold it to me on 9 September for £350 (GBP). As the covers were in bad state I had it rebound to match the original for £100 on 15 December 1983.

In September 2012 the whole volume was digitized in Ljubljana by Marko Zaplatil of ZRC and I presented it to the library of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna on 27 September.

The John Oliver who produced this volume was the Rev. John Oliver (1804-1883) of London. No documentary confirmation of this has been found, but the grounds for considering the two men to be one and the same are:

- the similarity of the handwriting in the London letter of 6 December 1857 (Fig. 6), the Appendix of 1856 in the present volume, the list of illustrations (Fig. 1) and the 1837 entries in the visitors' books of Postojnska jama (Fig. 8) and Vilenica (Fig. 9).
- both men used copperplate script on occasions
- both were in London in 1856 when the preface to the appendix was dated there
- The Rev. John Oliver was free to travel in the years 1837 and 1852 and was of suitable age
- their common interest in financial management.

Born in 1804, it was not until 1839 that Oliver entered Queens' College, Cambridge, so he would have been about 33 at the time of the 1837 visit to Postojna. He graduated at Cambridge in 1848 (M.A. 1847) and was vicar of Warmington near Oundle in Northamptonshire from 1844 to 1873^{16,17}. In 1854 he became secretary at King's College Hospital, London, whose minute books were written in copperplate script, and was Chaplain there also from 1855 until 1862. Concurrently with these appointments he was on 29 August 1856 made the Warden of the London Diocesan Penitentiary at Highgate¹⁸ in north London where he remained until his death. It was reported that "the financial resources of the Institution, not less than its internal management, owe much to Mr Oliver's cool judgement"¹⁹. The annual reports showed that he concerned himself with raising money for the penitentiary by letting part of the land and by the work of the inmates as well as by subscriptions and donations. The relevance of this interest will be seen when his remarks on the management of the cave are discussed.

Oliver died on 10 July 1883, leaving his widow Ann and three sons by a previous marriage. No portrait has been traced.

London Diocesan Penitentiary
HIGHGATE.

Dec^r. 6. 1857

My Lord 435

I beg your sanction
to the appointment of
Mrs. Ann Drysdale - widow
aged 35 yrs to the office
of a Litter Probatary
of this Institution,
and unless directed to
the contrary will wait
on your Lordship on Tues-
day morning next
I am Your Lordship's
ob^d. & faith^l serv^t

The Warden of the Penitentiary John Oliver

Fig. 6 A letter of 6 December 1857, in John Oliver's own handwriting (Lambeth Palace Library, Tait Papers, vol 107. f.271)

THE CAVES HE VISITED

John Oliver visited both Postojnska jama (Adelsberger Grotte) and Vilenica (Corgnale) in 1837 and, so far as is known, only Postojnska jama in 1852. These visits are recorded in the next section. As he himself gives no real description of either cave and the Schaffenrath book he translates is concerned only with Postojnska jama, it is advisable to give a brief overview here of both caves.

Postojnska jama

The Postojnska jama cave system consists of Postojnska jama itself (into which the surface river Pivka enters); Otoška jama and Črna jama (through which it flows); and Planinska jama (from which it emerges). All these caves have separate entrances and were visited separately.

The total explored length of the main Postojnska jama cave is now 9647 m, of which 2700 m forms the present-day tourist route. In the 19th century visitors were usually taken about 1150 m to the Curtain, 1890 m to Calvary or 2150 m to Tartarus (Fig. 7). The earliest dated entry in the visitors' book was made on 2 September 1819. Until 1818 only 360 m of the cave was known, from the entrance as far as the

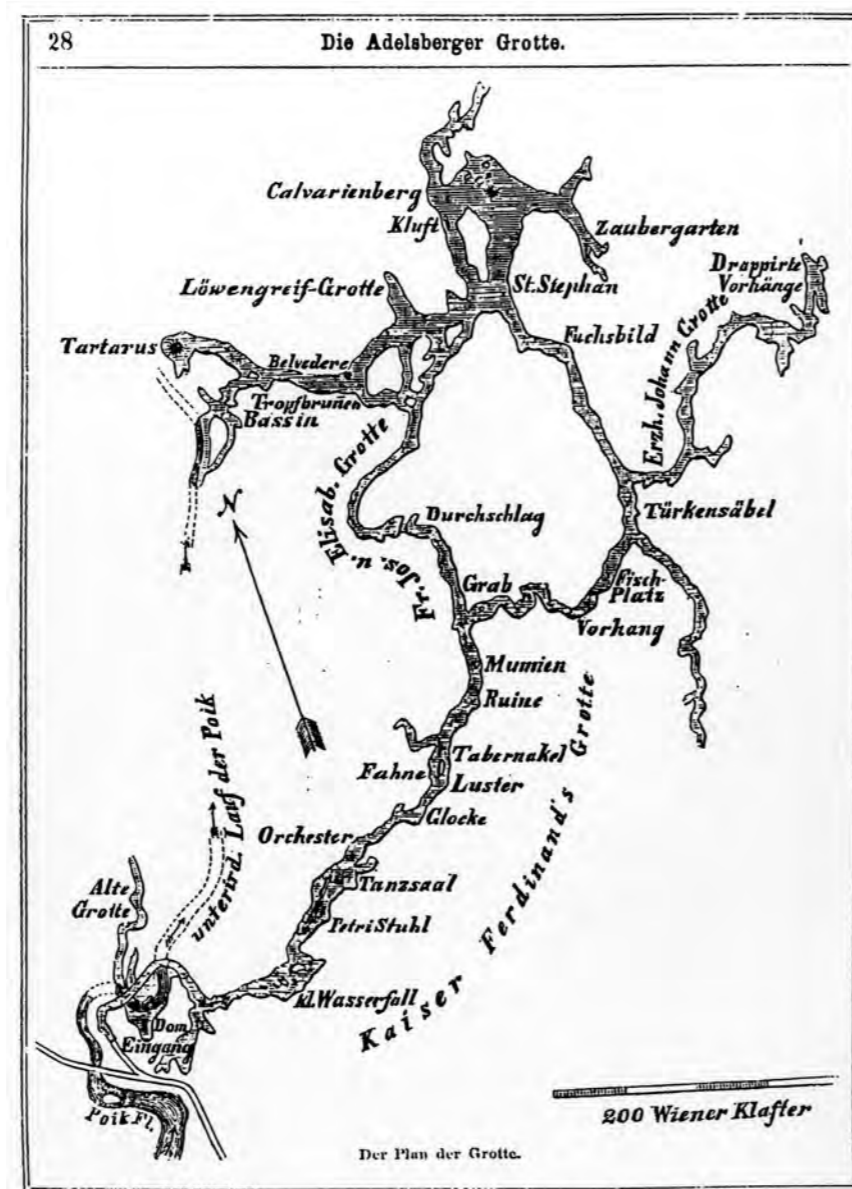


Fig. 7 A simplified plan of Postojnska jama published in 1861²⁰. Places commonly visited were Rov Podpisov (in Alte Grotte), Veliki dom (Dom), Kongresna dvorana (Tanzsaal), Zavesa (Vorhang), Kalvarija (Calvarienberg) and Tartarus

Nro.	Datum	N a m e n	Geburtsort	Charakter	Bohnort
	Data	N o m e	N a t i v o	C o n d i t i o n e	D o m i c i l i o
	Date	N o m	N a t i f	R a n g	D o m i c i l e
1	June 4	Mr Oliver	England	Genl.	Trist
11		Miss Rowth	England	Genl.	Trist

Fig. 8 John Oliver's entry in the Postojnska jama visitors' book on 4 June 1837 (not 1838)

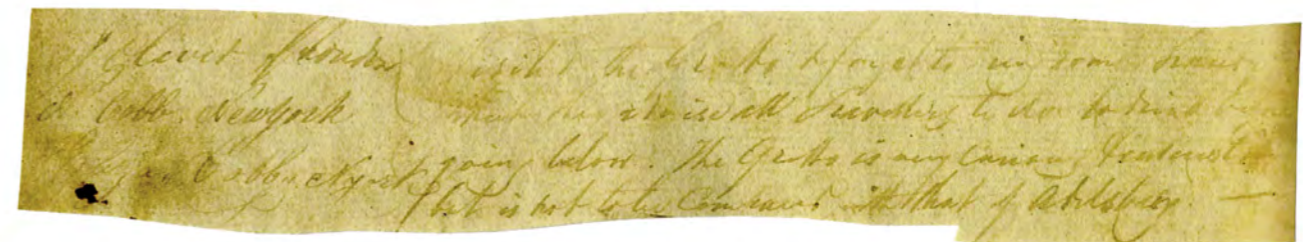


Fig. 9 John Oliver's 1837 entry in the Vilenica visitors' book. This faded entry is also printed in the text

underground river in Veliki dom and the small passages of the old cave (Rov Podpisov, etc.) in which names dating back to 1323^{20A} have been written on the walls. Other names were later written at certain favourite points in the post-1818 cave – many in what is now called the Speleobiological Station not far from the entrance and others in the main passage near the Curtain and on Kalvarija.

For many years arrangements for visiting the cave were made not at the entrance but in the town of Postojna 1 km away. Thus in 1829 the key was obtained from a "respectable shopkeeper"²¹, who evidently ran a tobacco shop and kept the visitors' book²². In 1843 visitors were directed by the innkeeper to "a shop across the road ... [where] we may pay the entrance fees and get the guide"²³. From about 1850 to 1854 all arrangements were made at the inn Zur Ungarischen Krone²⁴, where the proprietor was also the cave cashier at that period²⁵. The system in 1834 (and probably also when Oliver visited in 1837) is described

in the Schaffenrath guidebook translated here and it is also reprinted in a later section of this introduction.

The cave was managed for the state by a special Grotten-Commission which maintained the cave, paid the guides and set the fees. These were very complex, there being separate charges for entry to the cave, for each guide and light-bearer (the number of which depended on the size of the party) and for the lighting (which could be selected from rather dim to a “great illumination”).

Already by 1819 the length of the cave available to show to visitors was about 2 km, quite a distance before the cave railway was built for anyone who was unenthusiastic or unwell. As the Murray *Handbooks* said from 1840²⁶ to 1858²⁷ :

The guides will not usually take visitors quite to the end, unless expressly desired. When above half-way they stopped, and said, people rarely went further; but they ought to go on.

Thus a visitor in 1829²⁸ was asked by the guides, when they had reached the Curtain, if he “intended to proceed farther, for in that case one of them must return for more oil, as the lamps would not serve to any very considerable distance.” Strickland, too, found in 1835 that “our guides tried to make us return. Being, however, resolved to proceed until we could get no further, we insisted on going on”.

It seems that this guide pressure ceased in the 1850s, for the last visitor to record turning back near the Curtain was in 1855, Schmidl’s 1853 guidebook²⁹ states that “To go as far as the Curtain takes 2½ to 3 hours but to reach Calvary 4 hours are necessary ... The guides have to be told how long the visitor will be in the cave so that they can provide enough lights. A full miner’s lamp lasts for no more than 5 or 6 hours”, Murray’s 1855 *Handbook*³⁰ allows 2 hours to the Curtain and 3 to Calvary.

Candles, oil lamps, flaming torches, and burning straw, are all reported to have been used in the cave at that time.

Torches or flambeaux, made of pine or hazel wood split at one end and prepared for lighting with resin or wax, gave a good light and also a good deal of smoke. Spencer³¹ in 1836 refers to “pine torches” and Tobin³² at Križna jama in 1828 had “large pieces of fir-wood for torches”. Evidently the warning printed in Murray’s *Handbook* from its first edition in 1837³³ was necessary:

Visitors are expected to abstain from breaking the stalactites, or blackening with their lights.

Oil lamps were certainly in use in the 1820s. Bronn in 1824³⁴ remarked what a disaster it would be if the oil for the guides’ lamps ran out when in the cave. In 1829 the fee included the costs of “oil for lamps”, one of which was carried by each guide³⁵ and a visitor of that year said “our lamps [were] not ... powerful enough”³⁶.

It is probable that such lamps remained in use until the mid 1850s, when the cave archives start to show significant purchases of candles, or even later. In 1853 Schmidl’s guidebook³⁷ still said that “only miners’ lamps are permitted as the smoke from torches blackens the stalactites ... If you wish to have a brighter light than that carried by the guides, candles must be placed at certain points”.

The use of burning straw to light up Veliki dom as late as 1836³⁸ implies that the normal lighting was still dim at that time.

Vilenica

The cave of Vilenica is nearly 2 km north-west of Lokev, inland from Trieste.

Three factors influenced its popularity with both visitors and artists:

- Until the greatly extended Postojnska jama was opened to the public in 1819, Vilenica was by far the most beautiful and impressive cave in the region.
- It was only 11 km from the port of Trieste where travellers waiting for their ships would seek places of interest to visit.
- Until 1780, when the main road from Wien took a more distant way into Trieste, the cave was only 1½ km from the old route through Lokev and Basovizza. Thus it was only some 500 m further from the main road than was Postojnska jama.

The visitors’ book proves the popularity of the cave in the 19th century, and also shows just how many of the visitors came from Trieste. The organized way in which the cave was shown by the middle of the 19th century is demonstrated in Murray’s *Handbooks* from 1867³⁹: “The innkeeper Mukow has the key and the Grotto Book. Fee, 15 kr. each person; 1 hr. sufficient”.

OLIVER'S VISITS TO THOSE CAVES

John Oliver first visited Postojnska jama and Vilenica in 1837, not in 1838 as stated on the title page of his book. Already about 33 years old when he came to Slovenia, it was only after that that he went to Cambridge University and became a priest.

Nothing is known of his travels except that he was in Trieste in the summer of 1837 and again in 1852. It was from there that he came to Postojnska jama on 4 June 1837 (Fig. 8). The visitors' book records him as a native of England and staying at Trieste. He was accompanied by William Routh, also from Trieste. They were two of the 927 visitors who saw the cave in that year⁴⁰.

Vilenica was the other cave he saw in 1837. His undated entry in the visitors' book there (Fig. 9), written between entries of 22 July and 2 August, is in very faint brown ink. As the original is not clear, it is printed here also. Two words are illegible.

J. Oliver of London	Visited the Grotto & forgot to bring some [????]
N. Cobb, New York	which they advise all travellers to do [????] before
[??] Cobb, Nyork	going below. The Grotto is very curious & interesting but is
	not to be Compared with that of Adelsberg.

What they forgot to bring, perhaps additional clothes, is not known.

In addition to this comment, he provides a fuller description of the visit as a manuscript addition at the end of his Schaffenrath translation.

His second visit, in 1852, was only five years before the opening of the railway from Trieste to Wien through Postojna (Fig. 10) which was to make going there so much easier. He was at Postojna in Septamber⁴², when the yearly total of visitors to the cave had risen to 1623, but no entry appears in the visitors' book. That visit is however recorded by him on p. [30] of the manuscript Appendix to his translation. He describes the kleine Vorhang in Pisani rov and says "The existence of this Curtain was, I believe, unknown, until it was discovered by me in Sept. 1852, just before leaving this Cavern which I had been inspecting". This Curtain will be mentioned again when discussing Oliver's relations with Schmidl.

As Oliver nowhere describes his overall time spent in Slovenia, he makes no mention of any difficulties he may have experienced as a traveller. One potential problem – planning his visit in the first place – was very nearly avoided by the first edition of Murray's guidebook to the region⁴³ but this did not appear until the year he was there, too late for forward planning. Baedeker did not describe the area until 1868. Oliver would have had to

depend upon accounts by previous travellers such as John Russell's *A tour in Germany, and some of the southern provinces of the Austrian Empire, in the years 1820, 1821, 1822*⁴⁴, which was so popular as to appear in four editions between 1824 and 1828.

Language would clearly have been no problem, for he was fluent in German. But the quality of the accommodation was always problematic. Fortunately for historians the standard of inns was frequently remarked upon by those who used them, and from 1837 onwards Murray's *Handbooks* also commented upon it – a good encouragement for improvement. Typical Murray comments are :

Planina (1837 ⁴⁵)	Inn; Schwartzter Adler, good.
Postojna (1837 ⁴⁶)	Inn; Osteria Grande, - dirty and bad. It is much to be regretted that there is no tolerable inn here
Postojna (1843 ⁴⁷)	Inn; Osteria Grande, not very good
Postojna (1863 ⁴⁸)	Inns : Hungarische Krone (Post); really good and reasonable; civil people ...

Comments by the travellers themselves reflected the same improvement in Postojna when the Ungarischen Krone opened (where Hotel Kras now stands). About then it was in that inn that visitors arranged their cave visits, signed the book and set off with their guides to the cave itself:

Weston in 1846 ⁴⁹	Dined at the Osteria Grande at a passengers' spread, at which each looked sharp after himself.
Unidentified traveller in 1855 ⁵⁰	The small and very clean inn of Adelsberg [Zur Ungarischen Krone]

Oliver's first visit, at least, must have been in the bad old days.

No contemporary images of the inns have been traced, but the town of Postojna appears in a photograph of October 1855 (Fig. 10) and also in a lithograph published in 1860 (Fig. 11).



Fig. 10 Postojna in October 1855, with the railway station under construction in the foreground. A photograph by Johann Bosch⁴¹



Fig. 11 It was at the post town of Adelsberg (Postojna) that many people stopped to see the caves. This view, published in 1860, shows the Nanos plateau in the background and also the hill Sovič with its ruined castle. A lithograph by Giuseppe and Alberto Rieger⁵¹

WHAT WAS A CAVE VISIT LIKE AT THE TIME?

Further light on what Oliver would have experienced when he visited these two caves is provided by accounts written by other travellers. Some of these are long and detailed but a few extracts here should give the flavour of such occasions.

Dr. Edward Rigby (1804-1860) came to Postojnska jama in July 1829 and went only as far as the Curtain (Zavesa)⁵²:

... first learnt something of it from Russel's Tour in Germany, and determined to myself that, if ever it was my good fortune to travel, and penetrate so far into the dominions of his Austrian Majesty as to reach the district of Carniola and Isteria I would make a point of visiting the wonderful Cavern of Adelsberg. ...

As it is necessary to comply with certain rules before permission can be obtained to visit the Grotto, it may not be amiss to mention them for the benefit of any future

travellers who may feel inclined to explore its recesses. To prevent accidents and preserve the beautiful stalactitic formations from injury, the entrance has been closed by a door, the key of which is deposited in the hands of a respectable shopkeeper in the town. Eight or ten men, who, from their intimate acquaintance with the interior of the cavern, are well qualified to act as guides, have been appointed to attend strangers; a book is kept for the purpose of inscribing their names, and a fee of two Gulden Münz, or four shillings of our money, is demanded from every visitor – this sum goes to defray the expense which the Government has been at for making flights of steps in different parts of the Grotto, and, and erecting a substantial wooden-bridge over the river that flows through it; it also includes the charge of oil for lamps, and the attendance of the guides. Having made these necessary arrangements, I left the town, accompanied by three guides, each furnished with a miner's lamp; we proceeded along the foot of the range of hills already mentioned until we came to a little stream, which, after flowing across the plain, suddenly enters the mountain through a natural archway in the rock; a large mass of stone seems, as it were, to have made a slip

downwards over the aperture, thus lessening the arch considerably, and giving it a triangular form. The path here leaves the river, and ascending a little way up the hill, leads to a small door among the rocks by which we entered the cavern. My guides now lighted their lamps, but it was some time before my eyes became sufficiently accustomed to the darkness to enable me to discern the surrounding objects ...

The Scottish geologist, James Forbes (1809-1868) was there in September 1837, very soon after Oliver's first visit. In his unpublished diary he wrote⁵³:

In Adelsberg got 3 guides & proceeded to the grotto (¼ hour) & spent exactly 2 hours in it, in which time I saw it very satisfactorily going to the Calvarienberg which is the farthest point to which the path has been carried tho' the Grotto extends somewhat further Length 1250 Klafters [=2370 m] The Calvarienberg pleased me most. The old grotto is a poor thing. Saw several Protei which are not nearly as active as I expected. They are sluggish and easily caught. On the whole the grotto exceeded my expectations altho' at first it disappointed them.

Adam Kennard (1833-1915) was at Postojnska jama in June 1853 towards the end of a tour in Egypt and Palestine⁵⁴:

As my stopping at Adelsberg was solely for the sake of seeing the celebrated caverns, I was not a little pleased, on waking the next morning, to find the sun shining brilliantly. The grottoes are distant from the village about a mile; so immediately after breakfast, obtaining a guide, I set out for the mountain beneath which they extend. After waiting for a quarter of an hour at the entrance, whilst some men went in to illuminate them, I commenced exploring. Leaving daylight for awhile, I followed my guide down a long gallery cut in the rock, regretting that I had not brought an umbrella with me, on account of the heavy drops of water which fell incessantly upon my head, and at times found their way down my back....

And now for the Vilenica cave.

John James Tobin (b. 1808 or 1809) was a far from ordinary tourist when he visited it in October 1828. A medical student at the time, he was travelling as companion to Sir Humphry Davy, chemist and fisherman who died in the following year. When he could, Tobin went off to explore caves⁵⁵, including Križna jama (his was the first published account of it) and Postojnska jama as well as Vilenica:

10th. I left Trieste early this morning, with a guide, to visit the grotto. ... We reached Corneale, a small and dirty village, and having here provided ourselves with a man

carrying a large lamp, and some boys with candles, proceeded over some very rough and stony fields to the grotto. The entrance was not, as I expected, in the side of a hill, but in the open fields, and surrounded by a wall. Having lighted our lamps and candles, I took off my coat, and we began the descent down some very slight wooden stairs, the steps and railing of which were, as I afterwards found to my cost, not only slippery, but quite rotten from the continual dripping. The entrance, or hall, is a fine lofty dark vault, supported in the middle by one enormous stalactite column. Beyond this the cave becomes narrower, and the numberless stalactites of all sizes present a greater variety of forms than it is possible to describe.

These different forms, the deathlike stillness of the cave, the total darkness, except in those points where the guides placed themselves so as to illuminate the most striking objects; ...

Beyond this point the cave had not been explored, as the precipices are very dangerous. Even the descent to this spot is not very safe, being often along very narrow slippery paths and rotten stairs, or rather ladders. On my return I sketched different subjects in the cave, and whilst drawing the entrance-hall, incautiously sat upon the wooden hand-rail, when I heard a sudden crack, and felt that I was falling backwards. Not being able to recover myself, I slipped from rock to rock, turning twice head over heels, but without injury After a draught of water that was very refreshing, though from a dirty pool in the field, and paying the man and boys who had been in the grotto with me for upwards of two hours, I returned to Trieste, where the tailor and a good dinner set every thing to rights again.

On the night of the same day he went on to Postojnska jama:

After having read to Sir Humphry till nearly ten, I set out, accompanied by three guides furnished with lamps and some pounds of candles. We walked across the fields for about a mile in darkness, the moon not having yet risen, till we came to a slight ascent which brought us to a door in the mountain. The guides here lighted their lamps, and cut the candles into bits, and unlocking the door, we entered and found ourselves in a low and dark passage. Two of the guides went on before with the candles, and I followed a few minutes after with the other, the only one of the three who spoke German.

We saw the other two guides upon a frail wooden bridge, which is thrown across this subterraneous stream, they having already lighted some of the candles, which they were engaged in fixing upon the side rail, and in a few minutes, more than thirty candles in some degree dispelled the darkness which surrounded us. ...

WHEN WAS THE BOOK WRITTEN?

The date of the manuscript as a whole is not certain but is probably 1856. Certainly the appendix has a short "Prefatory notice" dated "London 1856" on page 2, but as the appendix is not structurally part of the larger volume it is just possible that the main text, which translates a book of 1834 and describes a visit of 1837, could be much earlier. The reasons for believing that the main text also dates from between 1854 and 1856 are:

- lithographs from Schmidl's book of 1854⁸ are mounted on blank leaves that form part of the main sewing of the text
- quotations from Murray's *Handbook for travellers in Southern Germany ...* are from the edition of 1850⁷
- the year of Oliver's visits to Postojnska jama and Vilenica jama is given as 1838 on the title page and page 48 respectively, although the visitors' books record them as in 1837. He could easily have forgotten the precise year after fifteen years but not in a shorter period.

It is likely that Oliver's interest in the cave was revived by his second visit, in 1852, and he made up the volume during the next four years.

However it is quite possible that the actual translation of Schaffenrath's 1834 book was carried out long before it was so beautifully transcribed in the present volume. It was when this final copying was done that the illustrations, footnotes and references to the Appendix were added. The fact that the footnote on page 19 seems to have been written long after the translation was made seems to support the earlier date for the translation itself.

ALOIS SCHAFFENRATH

Schaffenrath was born on 10 July 1784 in Ljubljana and died at Postojna on 14 September 1836. He was of vital importance in the development of Postojnska jama after the extensive discovery of 1818. Already in 1821 he made at least 18 water-colours of the cave, ones that were to be the bases of the engravings published in 1830 and 1832 and which are included as illustrations in the present volume. He was a member of the cave management commission and from 1823 was responsible for arranging the tourist paths, bridges and handrails in the cave. For this he used employed miners from the mercury mine at Idrija. New passages such as Pisani rov were discovered under his leadership⁵⁶.

His interest in these civil engineering aspects shows many times in his book. Thus describing the descent to the underground Pivka in the Velika dvorana⁵⁷:

Continuing further & descending by a passage of 33 Steps, the Visitor arrives at a strongly constructed wooden Dam or Pier, built to restrain the rapid flow of the River in its downward course into the bowels of the Mountain, & attached to this dam is a Bridge, also strongly constructed of Wood, both together making a length of Way equal to 149 feet [=45 m].

Again⁵⁸:

On the one Side, leading from hence, a raised Causeway furnished with Railings has been constructed by the Conservator of the Caverns to render Access both commodious & safe.

To facilitate this work he had an accurate plan of the cave made in 1821 by Sim Foyker of Idrija (Fig. 12). A revised plan showing more cave passages was prepared in 1834 by



Fig. 12 A manuscript plan of Postojnska jama made by Foyker in 1821⁵⁹

Johann Fercher⁶⁰ and it is a smaller version of this that is included in the 1834 guidebook and which Oliver has modified only by translating the place names into English.

Schaffenrath's signatures of 1821 and 1834 are reproduced here as Figs 13 and 14.

Alois Schaffnerath
(illegible text)
(illegible text)

Fig. 13 Schaffnerath's signature in 1821⁶¹

Adelsberg am 12. Junij 1834.
 Schaffnerath
(illegible text)

Fig. 14 Schaffnerath's signature in a letter of 1834⁶²

SCHAFFENRATH'S BOOK OF 1834

Schaffnerath's little book of 1834, translated here by John Oliver, exists in two editions, "edition" here being used in its technical definition as "an impression in which the matter has undergone some change, or for which the type has been reset"⁶³. There is no difference in the content of the two editions, but the one published in Laibach (Ljubljana)⁶⁴ and the one published in Wien⁶⁵ each have the type set differently throughout. Apart from the publishers' imprints on the title pages the difference is not prominent – a matter only of different ornamental rules, spacings, minor punctuation and even spelling ("Krystallguppen", Laibach; "Crystallrguppen", Wien). More obvious is the distinction between the Laibach cover of dark green thick paper (Fig. 15) and the Wien one of thin white card (Fig. 16);

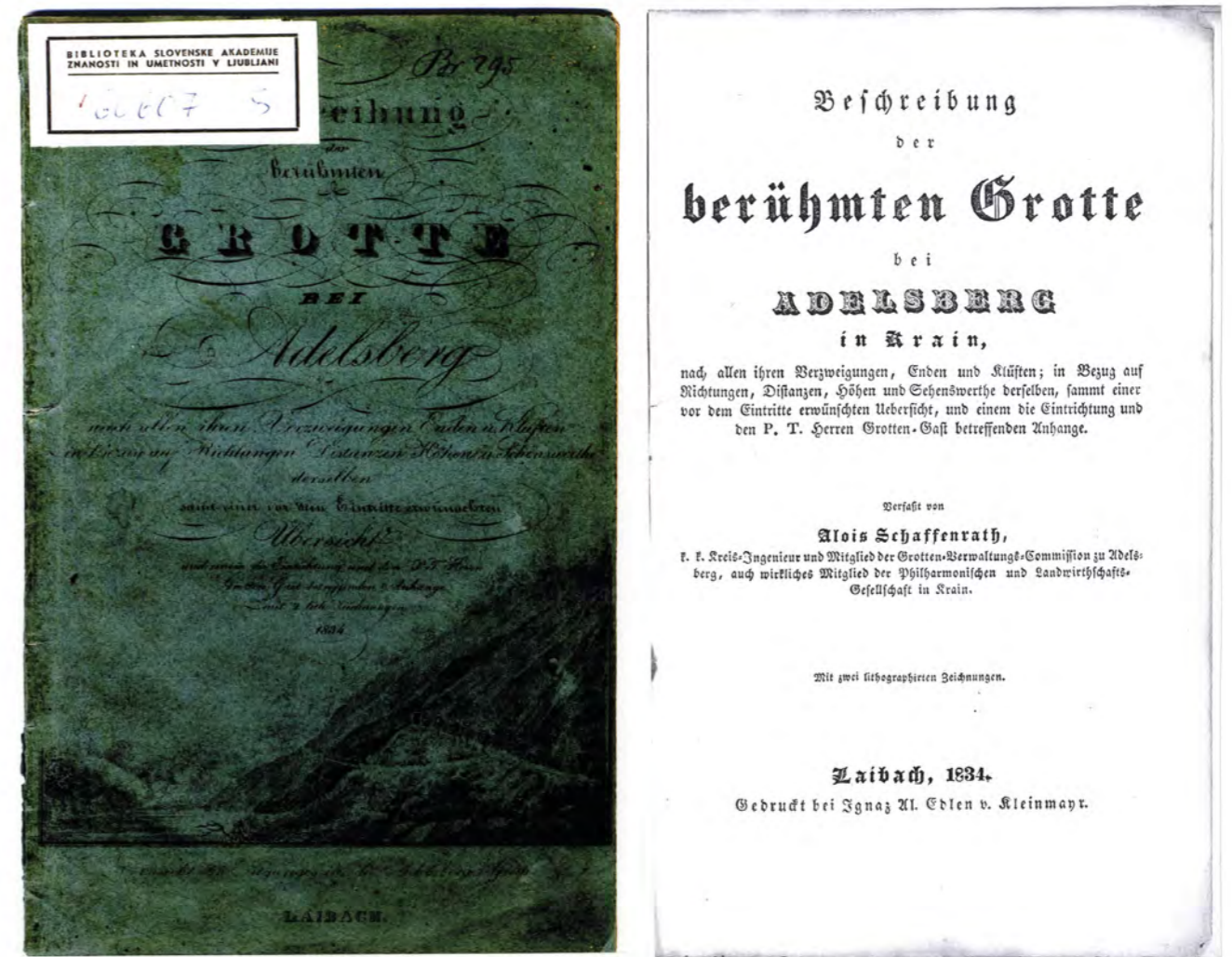


Fig. 15 Cover and title page of the Laibach edition of Schaffnerath's 1834 guidebook⁶⁴



Fig. 16 Cover and title page of the Wien edition of Schaffenrath's 1834 guidebook⁶⁵

also the difference in text paper quality – Laibach being inferior and now yellowed, while Wien has good white paper. In Postojna, Notranjski muzej has the Wien edition and the Karst Research Institute copy is from Laibach. It is not known which edition Oliver used, but probably it was the Laibach one.

These bibliographical details, while necessary to be recorded, make no difference to the reader or user of these books. The texts, pagination and illustrations are the same in both. The book contains the 1834 plan, already mentioned, and also a small lithograph of the Curtain by Schaffenrath, which is mentioned again later.

Ten years after the author's death and twelve after its first publication, a free translation into Italian was published in Udine⁶⁶ (Fig. 17).

Extracts from the 1834 book formed the basis of the somewhat smaller updated version of 1863⁶⁷ (Fig. 18) and its Italian counterpart of 1864⁶⁸ (Fig. 19). Habe's bibliography⁶⁹ lists also German editions of 1864, 1865 and 1867 and an Italian one of 1865.



Fig. 17 Cover and title page of the 1846 Italian translation of Schaffenrath's 1834 guidebook⁶⁶

Despite the former popularity of these books, very few copies are now known, so the present digital version fills an important gap.

As the entire content of this book is available here in Oliver's translation, there is no point in repeating much of it here. Nevertheless some of the more interesting information it contains is noted below:

In order to meet the convenience of Visitors, & particularly of Travellers passing through Adelsberg, the Committee of Management have made such Arrangements that the Caverns are always open to inspection by Night as well as by Day, during the whole of the Year:

The time occupied in an Inspection of these Caverns either in part, or to their full extent, may be calculated as follows; which will serve to regulate the Visitor in his arrangements where he has but a limited portion of time to devote to the object of his Visit to Adelsberg.



Fig. 18 Cover and title page of the 1863 guidebook based on Schaffenrath's of 1834⁶⁷

Fig. 19 Cover and title page of the 1864 Italian translation of the 1863 guidebook⁶⁸

Leaving Adelsberg & proceeding direct to the Caverns, & exploring them as far as the Curtain (Vorhang) & returning to the Town (without making any unusual Stay in the Caverns) will occupy Four Hours time.

From Adelsberg to the Caverns proceeding as far as Mount Calvary, - the examination of which, together with the Dropping Well, & penetrating as far as the Tartarus & back to the Town; - will occupy Five Hours & a half.

Lastly; - To examine & explore the Caverns of Adelsberg as far as they have hitherto been discovered, including all the Branches, Windings, Hollows, & Recesses Will require more than Twelve Hours time.

The Regulations established for Admission, & for Expences attending the inspection of the Caverns, are as follows: -

The Name, Address, & Country of the Visitor to be inserted in the Visitors Book kept at the Cashier's Office in the town, for that purpose; & at which Application must be made for permission to view the Caverns.

Arrangements for the Number of Torch bearers & Guides required, are to made with

the Cashier, according to the time intended to be spent in visiting the Caverns, & the number of the party going; - the Rates vary from 20 Kreuzers each Light for 2 Hours time, to 30 Kreuzers for 3 Hours, & 40 Kreuzers for 4 Hours time.

The Charges for Admission for each Individual is fixed at 30 Kreuzers (about one Shilling English) but Military Officers in the Austrian Service are charged only 15 Kreuzers.

The rates for civilians evidently increased soon afterwards, for a note in the Postojnska jama archives states that on the day of John Oliver's visit in 1837 he and his companion were charged 50 kreutzers each, while the rate for the two soldiers who were there on the same day was still 15.

The only matter of any scientific interest in Schaffenrath's text is a note on the colour change that occurred on the stalagmite formation known as the Tropfbrunnen near

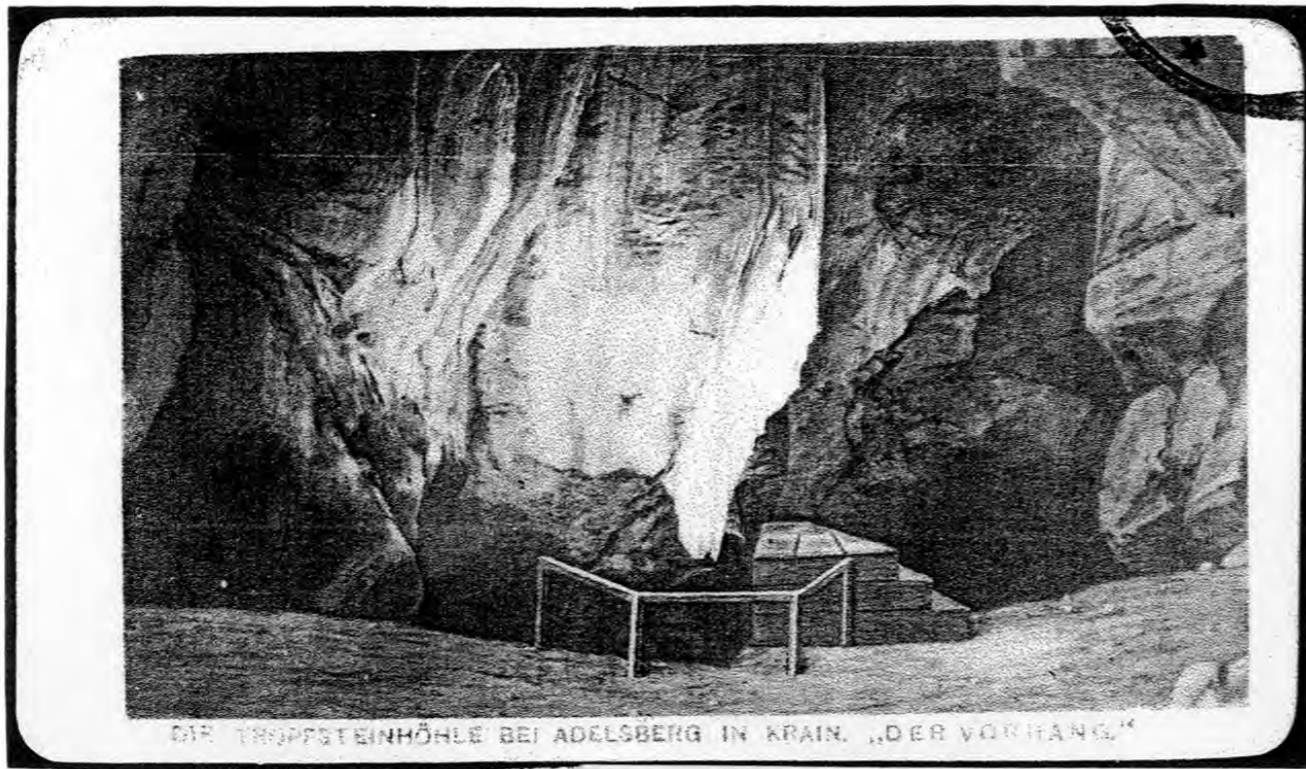


Fig. 20 The 'Vorhang' (Zavesa) after being damaged. Photographed by Mariot in 1868

Velika Gora. In the 13 years from 1821 to 1834, he said, the cone had not become perceptibly bigger "but during that time however, its Colour has changed from a clear bright White to Red"⁷⁰. It is nowadays accepted⁷¹ that such a colour change is usually associated with a removal of plant cover on the ground above, and Schaffenrath's remark may thus serve to date felling of timber or a forest fire on the hill.

Schaffenrath's lithograph opposite page 23 of this 1834 book is useful for showing the Curtain (Zavesa) at its full length before souvenir-hunters reduced it. Visitors in 1843 and 1845 admitted that they broke pieces off it⁷² and Mariot's photograph taken in 1868 (Fig. 20) shows its reduced state. Although the 1834 picture itself in the Oliver manuscript, it is reproduced here also (Fig. 21) to allow comparison with the later photograph.

JOHN OLIVER'S OWN CONTRIBUTION

While Oliver's translation of Schaffenrath's book occupies most of this volume, there is also much written by Oliver himself. This provides very little new information, however, being largely in the form of notes and comments – additional material such as might be expected from a translator.

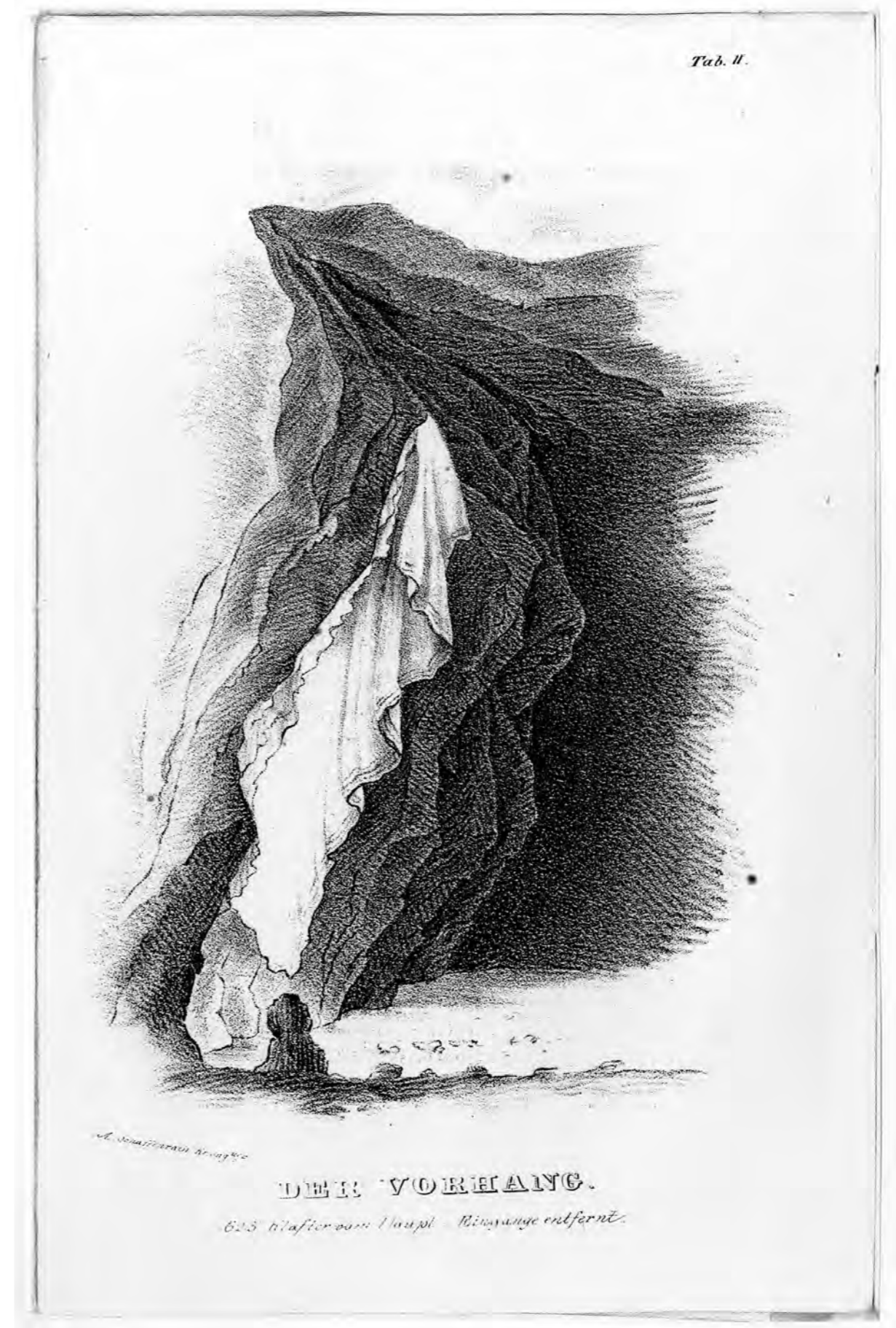


Fig. 21 The Zavesa in its original state. Schaffenrath's lithograph in his 1834 book, an original of which is inserted in Oliver's manuscript translation

The only wholly original matter are two pages after the end of the translation, in which he describe his own visit to Vilenica (Corneale) cave which he found very inferior to Postojnska jama.

The editorial remarks occur in two forms : footnotes to the Schaffenrath text (some of them very long) and others written separately in the Appendix and referred to in the main text as “Note n” etc. Of the Appendix he writes. “The substance of the following Notes consists of either Extracts from, or Condensations of, passages taken from D^r. Adolf Schmidl’s Work recently published...”. On occasions he adds his own comments, all of which are signed “J.O.” These include his belief that the Old Cavern (until recently called Stara jama) should be made more accessible, and a suggestion that the Curtain would be much better illuminated by reflector lamps than by tallow candles.

He devotes the last eight pages of the Appendix to adverse criticism of Schmidl’s illustrations (discussed in our next section) and also Schaffenrath’s engravings, both of which he has used to illustrate this volume. His remarks on these are vigorous and might be called arrogant and insulting, without giving adequate reasons for his opinions.

Pages 35-39 of the Appendix, derived from Schmidl, deal in some detail with the management of Postojnska jama, its funding and improved access for visitors. As remarked previously, this interest is consistent with the improvement he made in London to the management of the Highgate penitentiary where he was Warden.

OLIVER’S RELATIONS WITH SCHMIDL

Oliver’s constant references to Adolf Schmidl’s (Fig. 22) work and opinions and his extracts and summaries from Schmidl’s great book⁸ of 1854 (Fig. 23) have been noted already.

Most of Schmidl’s explorations and studies in Postojnska jama took place in 1850 and 1852 and he is known⁷⁴ to have been in Pisani rov in September 1852, the same month as Oliver was there. So Oliver must have had the opportunity of meeting Schmidl although he makes no mention of doing so.

Certainly, though, Oliver seems to have taken a hearty dislike to him and his written remarks about him seem to go far beyond mere disagreement. He was particularly vituperative about Schmidl’s own drawings for his book⁸

In my opinion these are very indifferent performances; in design badly conceived, & therefore, as Illustrations, very far from satisfactory. No genuine Artist, I think, would

have presented a View of the Curtain from the point the worthy Doctor has chosen to draw it.

Of Schmidl’s statement that he could not procure an artist of sufficient talent, Oliver wrote: “This Excuse appears to me, simply ridiculous”. Schmidl’s legitimate statement of the difficulties of making images in a cave – smoke and inadequate lighting – are regarded by Oliver as mere excuses.

It is possible that he was piqued that Schmidl made no mention of him in describing the kleine Vorhang, for

The existence of this Curtain was I believe, unknown until it was discovered by me in Sept.r 1852. (pp. 29-30 of the Appendix)

In his 1854 book, read by Oliver, Schmidl just says that it was “hitherto unknown until discovered by me in September 1852”⁷⁴. The actual date, however, and almost the hour, of Schmidl’s seeing it was recorded as “on the evening of 15 September” in a Wien newspaper of 24 September⁷⁵ and reprinted 6½ weeks later in Ljubljana⁷⁶. The exact day of Oliver’s “discovery” is not known.

Nevertheless Oliver seems to have had a high opinion of Schmidl’s 1854 book⁸ as a whole (except for its separate album of lithographs). He remarks (Appendix p.2) that “it is much to be desired that the more descriptive Portion of this Work were translated into French & English, & kept on the Spot, for accommodation of Foreigners who visit Adelsberg”. Of course Oliver never saw the 1854 French version⁷⁷ (Fig. 24) of Schmidl’s 1853 pocket guidebook²⁹, for it was published two years after he was there. No English language guidebook was to appear until 1927⁷⁸.



Fig. 22 This, the only known portrait of Adolf Schmidl, appeared with his obituary in a Hungarian newspaper⁷³

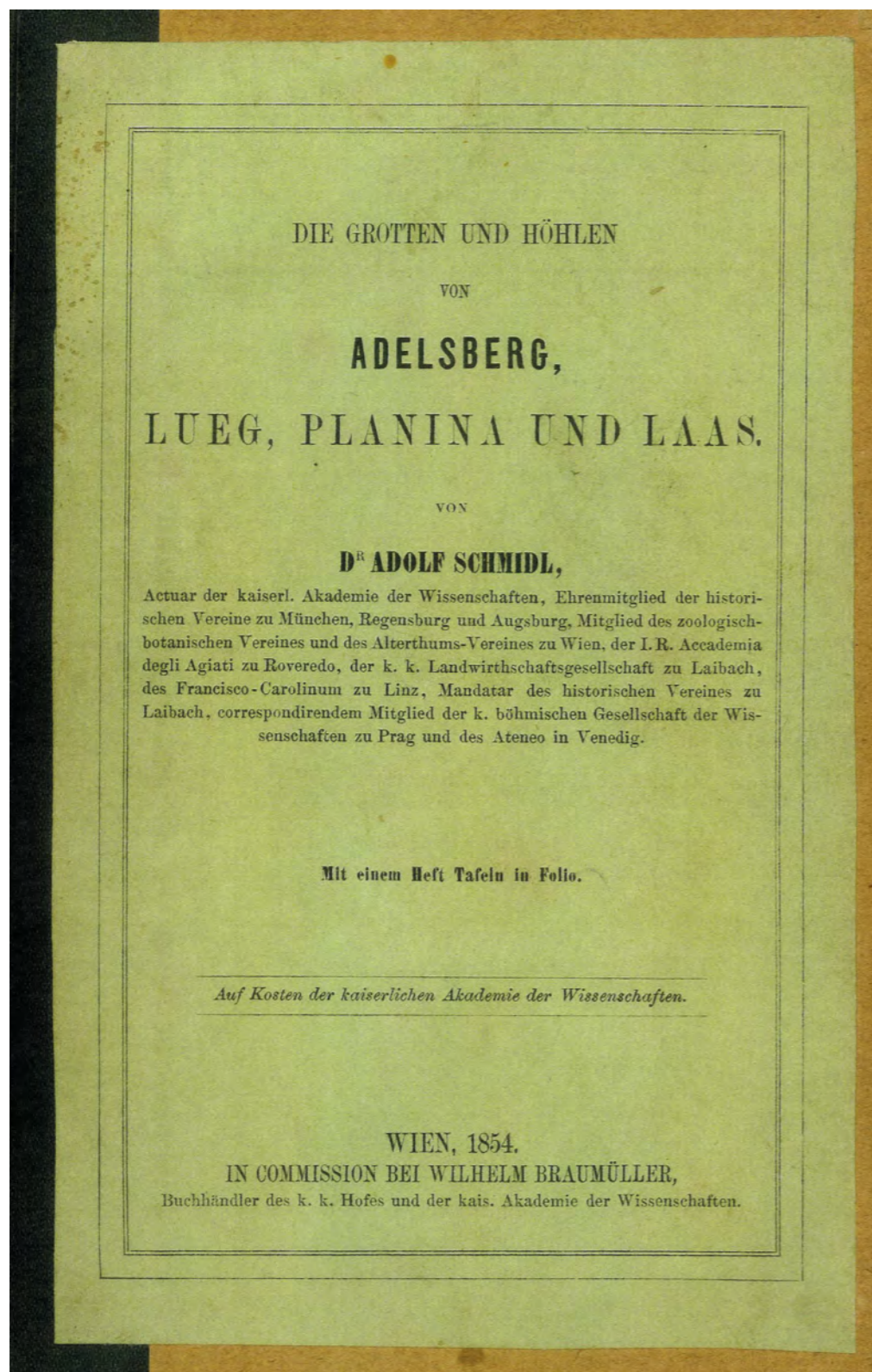


Fig. 23 The front cover of Schmidl's principal book on Slovene caves⁸

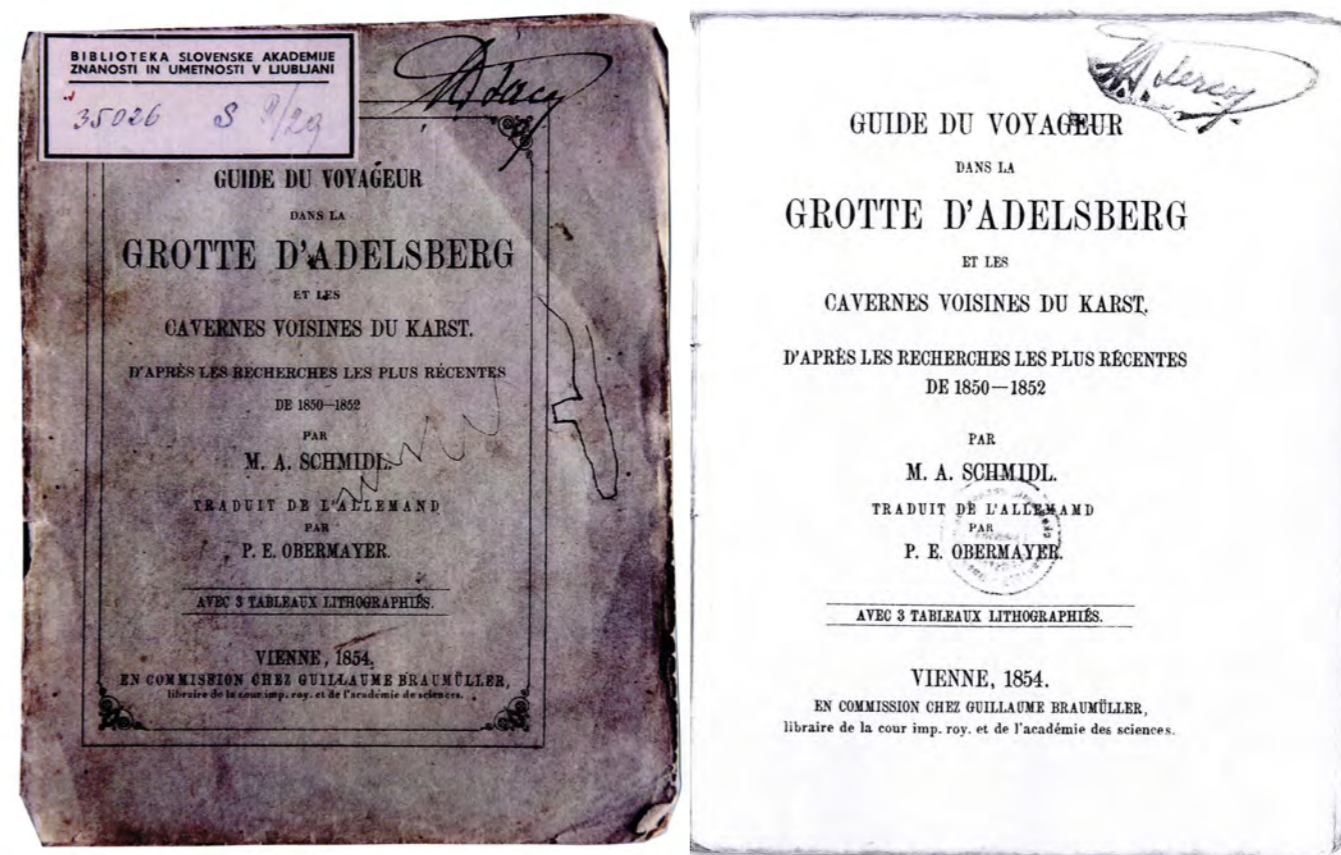


Fig. 24 Cover and title page of the 1854 French edition⁷⁷ of Schmidl's little guidebook

THE RIEGER PAINTING

The oil painting (305 x 450 mm) mounted opposite p.7 of the translation is by Giuseppe Rieger, although the artist is not named.

Oliver describes his obtaining it on p. [53] of his Appendix. Remarking that artists might be found in Wien or Trieste capable of making better images than those of Schmidl which he so much disliked, he goes on:

At least, there were such at Trieste in 1838 [really 1837], when I was there; as the Water Colour drawing I have introduced among my illustrations, of the English Garden, will satisfactorily prove. This Drawing was copied by the Artist himself, at my express desire, from an Oil painting which he had recently executed, for Sale. It was in consequence of my Enquiry after Illustrations of Adelsberg, subsequent to my visit to

the Caverns, that I was informed of this Artist, & had an opportunity afforded me of judging of his skill. In point of general effect & good drawing, I consider this specimen, as an illustration, admirable; & far superior to any thing yet published of Views of Adelsberg.

The artist, although Oliver does not name him, is undoubtedly Giuseppe Rieger (1802-1883). The style is indisputably his and no other artist's resembles it except perhaps his son Alberto, but Alberto was only seven years old at that time. Furthermore Giuseppe is known to have frequently made copies of his own paintings for sale and several versions are known of many of them. No other copies of this image are known to exist, so it is of particular importance. It is of special interest too for its early date, for the originals for those published as engravings in 1860⁵¹ are believed to have been made in the 1850s. Copies of some of his others were still being made by him as late as 1872 and are now in USA⁷⁹.

Although Oliver described the painting as of The English Garden, that name properly applies to a part of the present Speleobiological Station, much closer to the cave entrance, and is printed there on a plan of 1834⁸⁰. The painting is in fact of The English Kitchen (then englische Küche)⁸¹, now very much modified by the presence of the platform for the underground railway station at Kalvarija. Although this has changed its appearance greatly, its identity is confirmed by the large stalagmite just right of centre and by the small hole in the foreground.

PROTEUS

Not surprisingly, Oliver was interested in the cave-dwelling salamander-like amphibian that is endemic in the region – *Proteus anguinus*. “Not surprisingly” because they were shown to and often sold to visitors by the guides.

Where his translation of Schaffenrath's account of Pisani rov reads “Among other curious objects to be met with in this Cavern, are to be seen preserved in a Cistern of water, several specimens of that nondescript fish, or reptile, called the Proteus”, he adds a note of his own:

On the right hand side, are to be found several small Pools, formed by the Water-droppings from above, & from which originally a larger Bason or Reservoir was formed, & stocked with a number of Protei, brought from the Magdalena Grotto for the inspection of scientific & curious Visitors desirous of observing this singular



Fig. 25 This original Grüner drawing of *Proteus* in the Oliver manuscript is repeated here in the introduction to allow comparison with the published version in Fig. 26

reptile-fish; but at the present time, however, not a single Specimen is to be found therein.

The Magdalena Grotto is now called Črna jama.

There is a picture of *Proteus* on p.28 of the translation (Fig. 25). It is an original drawing in ink with water-colour by Ludwig Grüner (1801-1887) of Dresden. Grüner studied also in München and is known to have gone to Italy in 1825, returning to Germany in 1832, but little more is known about him⁸². The drawing is not dated but, as will be seen, it probably is from the late 1840s. The animals are shown crawling over mud just above the water surface.



Fig. 26 This picture of *Proteus* appears in the only illustrated edition (1851) of Humphry Davy's *Consolations in Travel*⁸³

The picture is important for two reasons. An almost identical reproduction appears in a book of 1851⁸³ and, more interesting still, one of the *Proteus* depicted is dark in colour.

Oliver's own picture is clearly an original, presumably sold to him during his visit in September 1852. The fact that the same image appears also as an engraving (Fig. 26) in the 1851 edition of Humphry Davy's *Consolations in Travel*⁸³ suggests that such things were then sold to visitors, much as postcards were to be sold later.

One of the two *Proteus* is a greenish black in the original water-colour and it is necessarily a dark grey in the black and white printed version. At first this seems startling, for in recent times dark specimens were unknown until, on 24 October 1986, a black one was found at a karst spring near Črnomelj in Bela Krajina^{84, 85}. Other specimens found since then confirm that it differs from the normal *Proteus* in other ways too.

However already in 1846 Heinrich Freyer had reported⁸⁶ that one had been found in 1836, and then at the beginning of July 1845 people at Laze in Planinsko polje found several yellow-mottled dark *Proteus* in the Bedenj sink of the Unica river.

Much more recently Božič⁸⁷ has found in the collections of Narodni muzej in Ljubljana two drawings (Inv. No. R-2133 and R-2134) of a black *Proteus* dated 1846 by Michael Sandler (1790-1856). The inscription on one states just that it came from Laze; the other is more precise, indicating that it was from the Unica sink at Bedenj. Both drawings were received from Wien in the spring of 1846. Sandler, best known for his botanical and animal drawings, worked in Wien.

It is likely, therefore that these drawings of 1846 were the inspiration for the dark *Proteus* in Grüner's drawing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people and institutions have provided information for this introduction. In addition to the sources listed in the notes I am grateful to curators at the British Library, the Keeper of Manuscripts in the Guildhall Library London, staff at the Greater London Record Office and the Lambeth Palace Library and the librarian of Queens' College Cambridge. Alenka Čuk and Franjo Drole provided information and they both critically read drafts. Marko Zaplatil digitized the entire original manuscript of John Oliver. Christine Ballinger, as always, digitized my text and helped in many other ways.

GLOSSARY

Oliver	Schaffentrath	Slovene
Adelsberg	Adelsberg	Postojna
Altar	Altar	Oltar
Archduke John's Cavern	Erzherzog Johanns Grotte	Pisani rov
Assembly Room	Tanzsaal	Kongresna dvorana
Blockhouse	Stockhaus	Ječa
Bust	antiken Kopf	Antična glava
Butcher's Stall	Fleischbank	Mesnica
Cannon Column	Kanonensäule	Steber top
Chandelier	Luster	Koruza
Coal Stove	Kohlofen	Oglarska kopa
Corgniale		Vilenica
Crown Prince and King Ferdinand's Caverns	Kronprinz und König Ferdinand's Grotten	Ferdinandova jama
Curtain	Vorhang	Zavesa
Dancing Hall	Tanzsaal	Kongresna dvorana
Diamond Mine	Diamanten-Grube	Diamantna jama
Dolphin	Delphin	Delfin
Dropping Well	Tropfbrunnen	Curek
English Garden	enlische Garten	Angleški vrt
Entrance	Eingang	Vhod
Fish Place	Fischplatz	Ribji trg
Fountain	Springbrunnen	Vodomet
Frills	Schapodeln	Čipka
Gate leading to Mount Calvary	Pforte zum Calvarienberg	Vrata na Kalvario
Gothic Hall		Gotska dvorana
Great Bell	grossen Glocke	Zvon
Great Dome	grosse Dom	Veliki Dom
Hanging Curtain	Vorhang	Zavesa

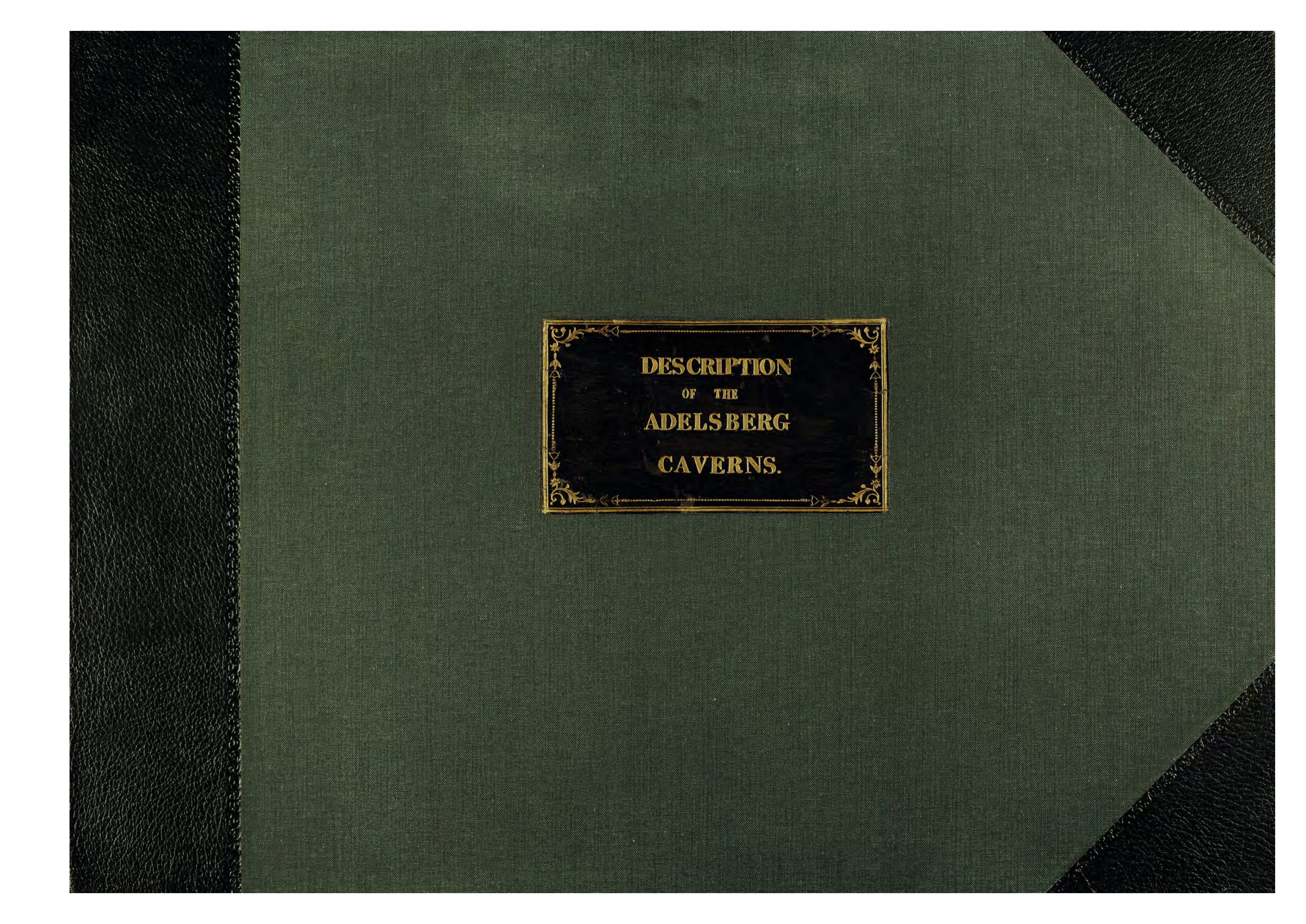
Oliver	Schaffenrath	Slovene
Hen Coop	Huhnersteige	Kurnik
Hermit	Eremit	Puščavnik
Iron Trunk in Vienna	Stock im Eisen	Okovani kol
Kleinhäusel Cavern	Kleinhäusel	Planinska jama
larger Cypress Tree	grosse Cypresse	Velika cipresa
Line of Sponges	Schwämmen	Gobe
Links of Sausages	Salami-Gehängen	Salama
Lion	Löwe	Lev
Little Bell	kleine Glocke	Mali zvon
Magdalena Grotto		Črna jama
Map	Landkarte	Zemljevid
Moonshine Point	Mondschein	Mesečina
Mount Calvary	Kalvarienberg	Kalvarija
Mummies	Mumien	Mumije
Natural bridge	Naturbrücke	Naravni most
Night Owl	Nacheule	Sova
Northern Lights	Nordlicht	Severni sij
Old Cavern	alte Grotte	Stara jama
Organ	Orgel	Orglje
Picture Column	Bild	Razvalina grad

Oliver	Schaffenrath	Slovene
Poik	Poik	Reka Pivka
Poik Cavern		Pivka jama
Red Sea	rothe Meer	Rudeče morje
Region of Tartarus	Tartarus	Tartar
Reservoir	Bassin	Bazen
Riding School	Reitschule	Jahalna šola
St. Stephan	St. Stephan	Sv. Štefan
Seat of Peter	Petri-Stuhl	Petrov stol
Sepulchre	Grab	Grob
smaller Cypress Tree	kleine Cypresse	Mala cipresa
Statue of the Blessed Virgin & her divine Infant	Statue der Mutter Gottes mit ihrem Kinde	Podoba device Marije in otroka
Thatched Roof	Strohdach	Slamnata streha
Throne	Thron	Prestol
Tomb	Grab	Grob
Turkish Sabre	Türkensäbel	Turški meč
Two united Hearts	Vereinigung zweier Herzen	Združeni srci
Unz	Unz	Reka Unica
Waterfall	Wasserfall	Slap
Wax Room	Wachskammer	Pralnica

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DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ADELSBERG
CAVERNS.

Ex Libris

Trebor K. Shaw

1976

A
Description
of the
CAVERNS OF ADELSBERG

in
CARNIOLIA, South AUSTRIA ;
being an Adaptation of
ALOIS SCHAFFENRATH'S

Beschreibung der berühmten Grotte
bei Adelsberg :

together with
Illustrations & Supplementary Notes
from various Sources.

T. & W. H. O. L. I. V. E. R.

Compiled, Translated and Arranged

BY

JOHN OLIVER,
who visited these Caverns

in

1838.

DESCRIPTION
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CATTREYS OF ADELBERG

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1	being an Alphabetical
2	Index
10	of the
21	of the
28	of the
31	of the
40	Illustrations & Supplementary
48	from various sources
49	

CASE FILES

Completed, Transcribed and Indexed
by
John G. ...

1858

1/12

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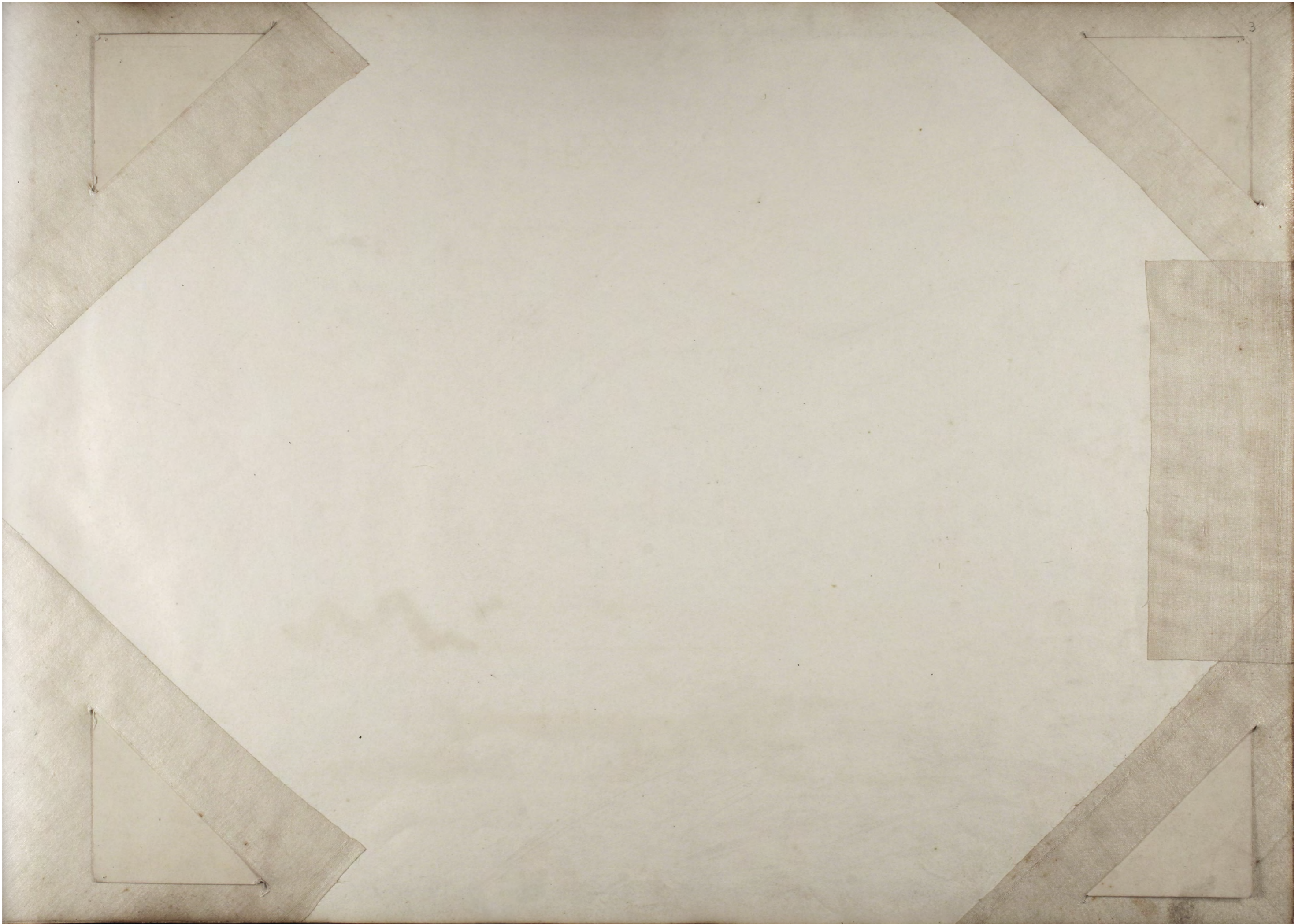
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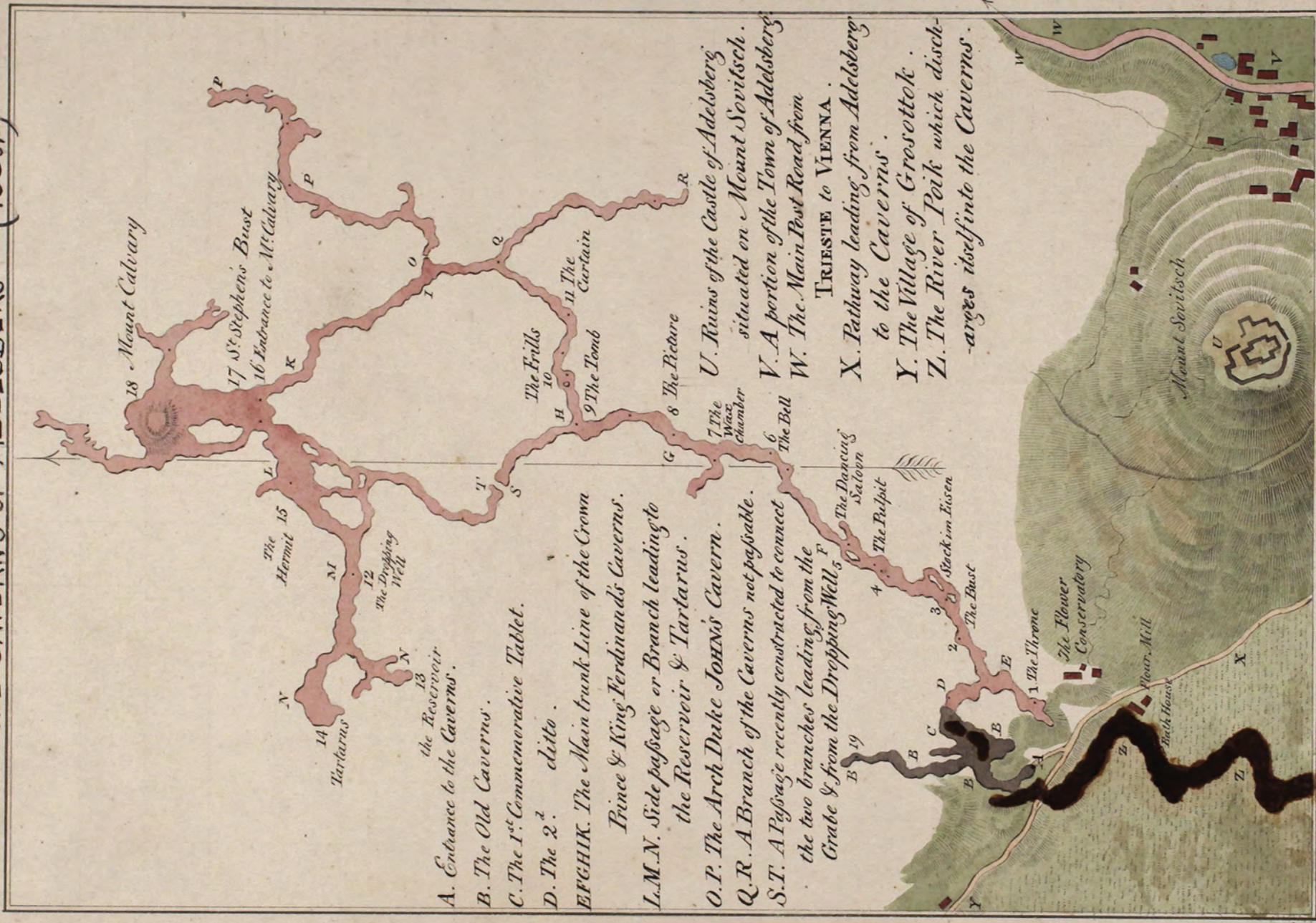
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Memorandum in honor of the Emperor's birthday



THE CAVERNS OF ADELSBERG (1834)



A. Schaffnerath design.

Copied & Enlarged from the Original by L.G. London.

A General Plan of the Extension and Namifications
of the Caverns of ADELSBERG
as far as they have been discovered to the present Time. (1834)

1834 Plan



HOLES

Taf. XIV.



Edm. G. H. M. del.

Piuka Jama.
Dolenz-Pforte.

J. W. Müller sculp.

*The Piuka Cavern or Passage
near the Magdalen Grotto. (See Appendix at page 48, Note w.)*

Introduction.

THE Chain of the Julian Alps extending in a direction from NW. to SE. through Carniola & Istria, provinces of Southern Austria, is remarkable for the immense number of Caverns which occur in it. There are it is said, more than 1000 between the Isonzo & the frontier of Bosnia. It is one of the peculiarities of the limestone of which these Mountains consist, to disintegrate in places & to be cleft by fissures, so that in parts they may be said to be hollow. Large lakes are formed within them, & Streams flow through them, following a mole-like course, engulfing themselves in gaping Caverns, & re-appearing above ground at intervals, before they terminate in the Sea, or in some great River. Sir Humphry Davy who was well acquainted with the extreme provinces of Austria bordering on the Adriatic, observes; "The Strata forming the subsoil of this part of Styria are entirely calcareous & full of subterranean Caverns, so that in every declivity large funnel shaped Cavities, like the Craters of Volcanoes, may be

1.

1.
See the annexed
Plate, & reference
to Note W. in the
Appendix.

seen in which the waters that fall from the atmosphere are lost; & almost every Lake or River has a subterraneous source, & often a subterraneous exit¹. The Laibach River in Styria rises twice from the limestone rock, & is twice again swallowed up by the Earth before it makes its final appearance & is lost in the Save."

The want of moisture on the surface, occasioned by the fundamental rock not being watertight, & the rain passing off through cracks, gives to a great portion of the above districts, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the Adriatic, a character of the most repulsive barrenness, except in the Vallies. It is in all respects, a desolate & howling Wilderness: the Mountains are literally stripped naked, void of even the simplest kind of Vegetation, presenting a bare surface of grey limestone fissured or shattered into splintery fragments, & sometimes indented with bowl shaped hollows. The Julian Alps cross the line of route between Laibach, the principal town of Carniola, & Trieste, the capital of Istria; & the traveller traverses the district called the Karst, which is a table land of bare limestone rock believed by Geologists to correspond in age with the Chalk, separating Carniola from the Coast land or littorale, with eyes aching from the reflection of the Sun on the white rocks, to relieve which he looks in vain for a spot of verdure. This desolate tract commences at about 10 Miles from the shores of the Adriatic.

Adelsberg is a small Market town situated on the main post Road

between Vienna & Trieste. It is distant rather more than half way between Laibach & Trieste, & is about 33 English Miles, or 6 hours journey from the latter City.*

* For further particulars respecting Adelsberg, See Appendix at page 48, Note A.

^{1.}
See Appendix
at page 48,
Note B.

DESCRIPTION of the ENTRANCE & PARTS adjoining.

THE Caverns known by the name of the Grottos of Adelsberg are decidedly the most magnificent, & probably the most extensive, in Europe¹. They have been explored to a distance of between 3 & 4 Miles from the entrance. It is probable however, that this is not the End of these vast hollows, but that many other passages & chambers exist which have not yet been examined.

These justly celebrated & extraordinary productions of Nature shape their Windings by three principal Channels. From the point at which the river Poik enters the base of the Adelsberg Mountains, they proceed in an easterly direction; — afterwards inclining for some distance towards the SW. & then diverging towards the NE. as far as a point called the Cannon Column, (Canonen Saule) they assume a course decidedly Northwards as far as St. Stephan's Cavern.

From hence they bear due W. & after continuing their course for some distance further, resolve themselves into a passage of gradually contracting dimensions which forms the approach to a very spacious Cleft or Cave, at the extremity of which is a lake or pool of Water, & which may be considered as their natural termination. Beyond this point, all such researches as have hitherto been made have failed to lead to the discovery of any further outlet, & indeed, further investigation in this



Ansicht von Adelsberg

View of Mount Lovitsch and the Ruins of Adelsberg Castle.

J. W. F.



Edm. H. A. Nagel.

Joseph Winter del.

Adelsberger Grotte.
Eingang.

The Entrance.

Karte der Gegend zwischen Adelsberg und Planina

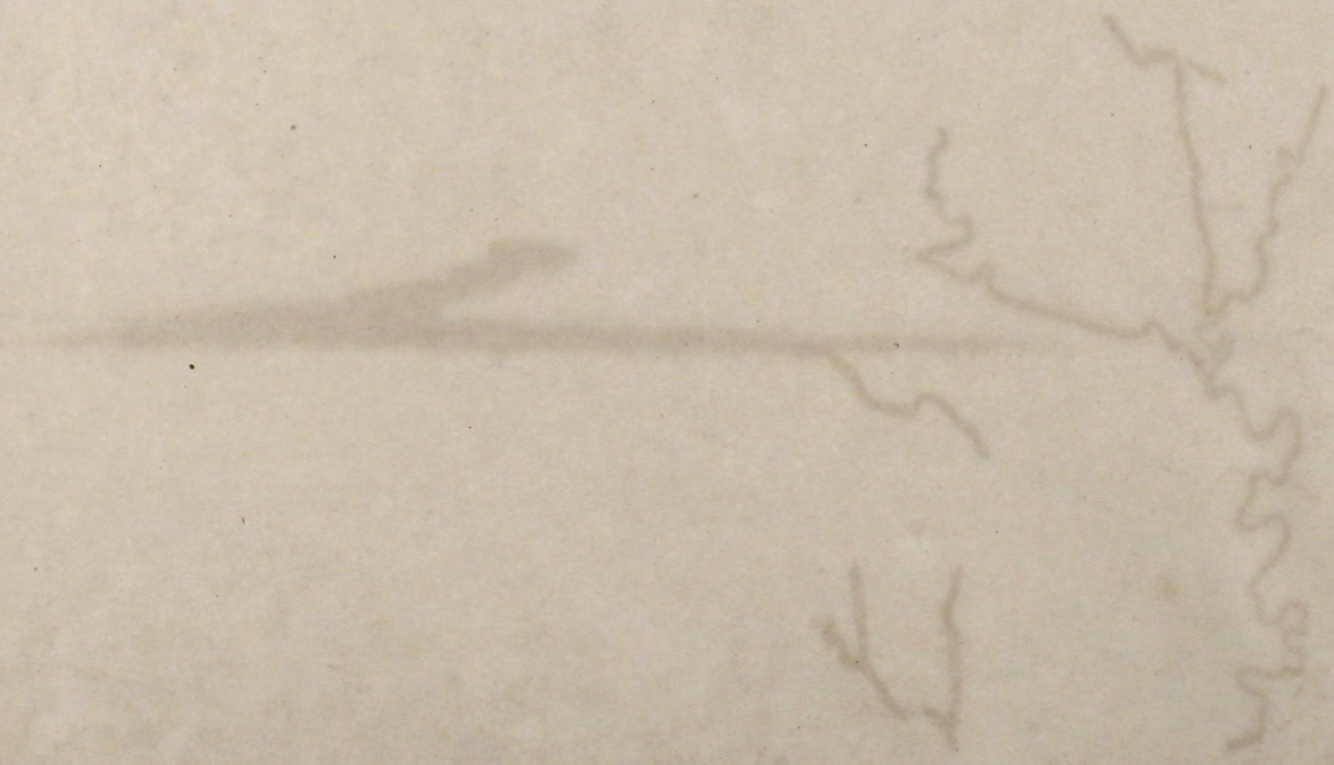
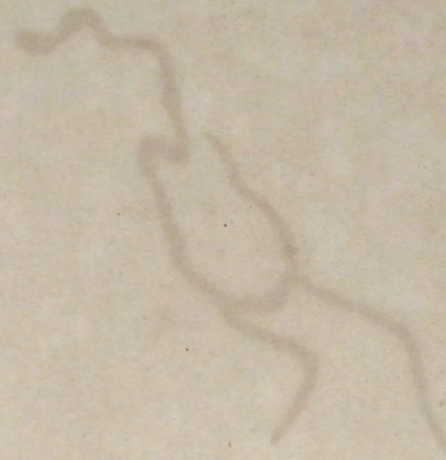
(Nach dem Mafsstabe 1 W. Zoll = 400 Klafter oder 28800 der Natur)
mit dem eingezeichneten unterirdischen Verlaufe der Höhlen und des Poik Flusses.

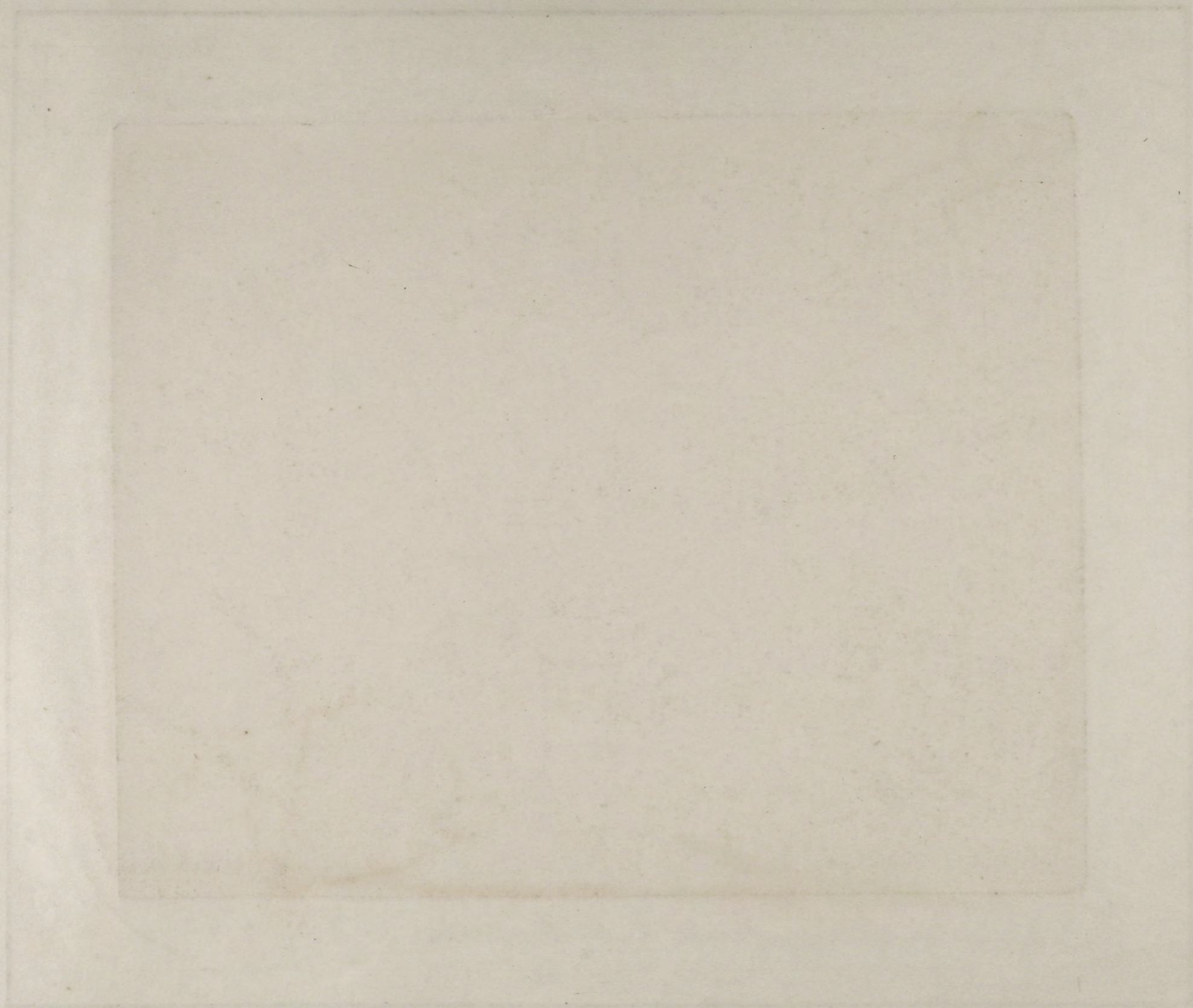
Taf. I.



A Ground Plan of the Country lying between Planina and Adelsberg (in which the principal Caverns are situated) shewing the Locality of the various Caverns, also the upper & underground Course of the River Poik between the above points.

The thick black Lines represent the main Post Roads passing through this Neighbourhood. The red Line shows the Course of the Vienna & Trieste Railroad, which will pass near Adelsberg. The light blue lines indicate the above ground Course & Windings of the River Poik. The dark blue lines indicate the subterranean Course of the Poik through the Caverns & Mountains.







Eingang in die Grotte.

Entrance to the Caverns.

direction appears impracticable. To the united powers of Nature & Time must the extension of these marvellous Caverns through future Ages, be owing. To estimate the periods of Time during which the Caverns of Adelsberg as at present known, have been produced by the power of Nature, would be a vain attempt; but judging from the Effects we every where observe in these wonderful repositories of Nature's Skill, the Causes which have produced these extraordinary Caverns & their infinitely varied Contents, are still at work, & apparently will still continue through indefinite periods of future time, slowly though gradually, to add both to their extraordinary Contents, & to their further Extension. —

At the height of about 1800 feet above the level of the Sea, & of about 62 feet above the surface of the River Poik, is situated the Entrance of these Caverns, deprived of all external Light. They are distant about 1240 Yards from the Village of Adelsberg (situated on the main Road from Vienna to Trieste) from which they derive their name, & to which small & unpretending locality, they have added a justly renowned Celebrity.

The entrance to these Caverns, which is only a mere fissure or cleft in the side of the grey calcareous rock of which the interior of the Adelsberg Mountains is principally composed, is both low, narrow, & of the most unpretending appearance; presenting no external indications of the high degree of Interest which the contents of the labyrinthine recesses to which it leads, cannot fail of exciting in the mind of even the most superficial Visitor who, by the impulse of mere Curiosity alone, may be induced to enter this humble Portal^(1.) Guided by the roaring of the rushing Stream

which appears to flow at a short distance beneath his feet; the curious Visitor enters these Caverns proceeding by a very accessible & conveniently constructed pathway along one side of the rocky Cliff. This pathway is rendered quite safe for Visitors, being protected on the one side by the massy Cliff which stretches out like a lofty Wall, & on the other by a strong wooden parapet which lines the outer side of the pathway & over which the Visitor looks on a yawning Abyss, dark & apparently fathomless, formed by the continued declivity of the side of the Cliff, at the bottom of which the Stream rushes rapidly & violently onward, unseen, but not unheard. Proceeding forward & passing over various stone steps which have been placed at intervals in order to facilitate access in places where, owing to the declivities & projections of the Rocks, such aid is required; the pathway leads in an easterly direction along the sides of the Rock till it opens into a broader & more level way. The roaring of the impetuous Stream, over the agitated bosom of which the Visitor hitherto seemed suspended, gradually becomes fainter as it proceeds on its downward course, penetrating the inmost recesses of the hollow rocks, till at length it becomes inaudible. This pathway or track continuing among piles of Stalactite formation, overhanging rock petrifications & masses of protruding Cliff, is by skilful contrivance rendered safe & accessible by the introduction where required, of wooden supports, props & railings; & leads downwards by a flight of 13 Stone Steps to a naturally formed passage or crossing termed die Naturbrücke, the natural Bridge, which is passed without danger, it being protected by a firm stone parapet

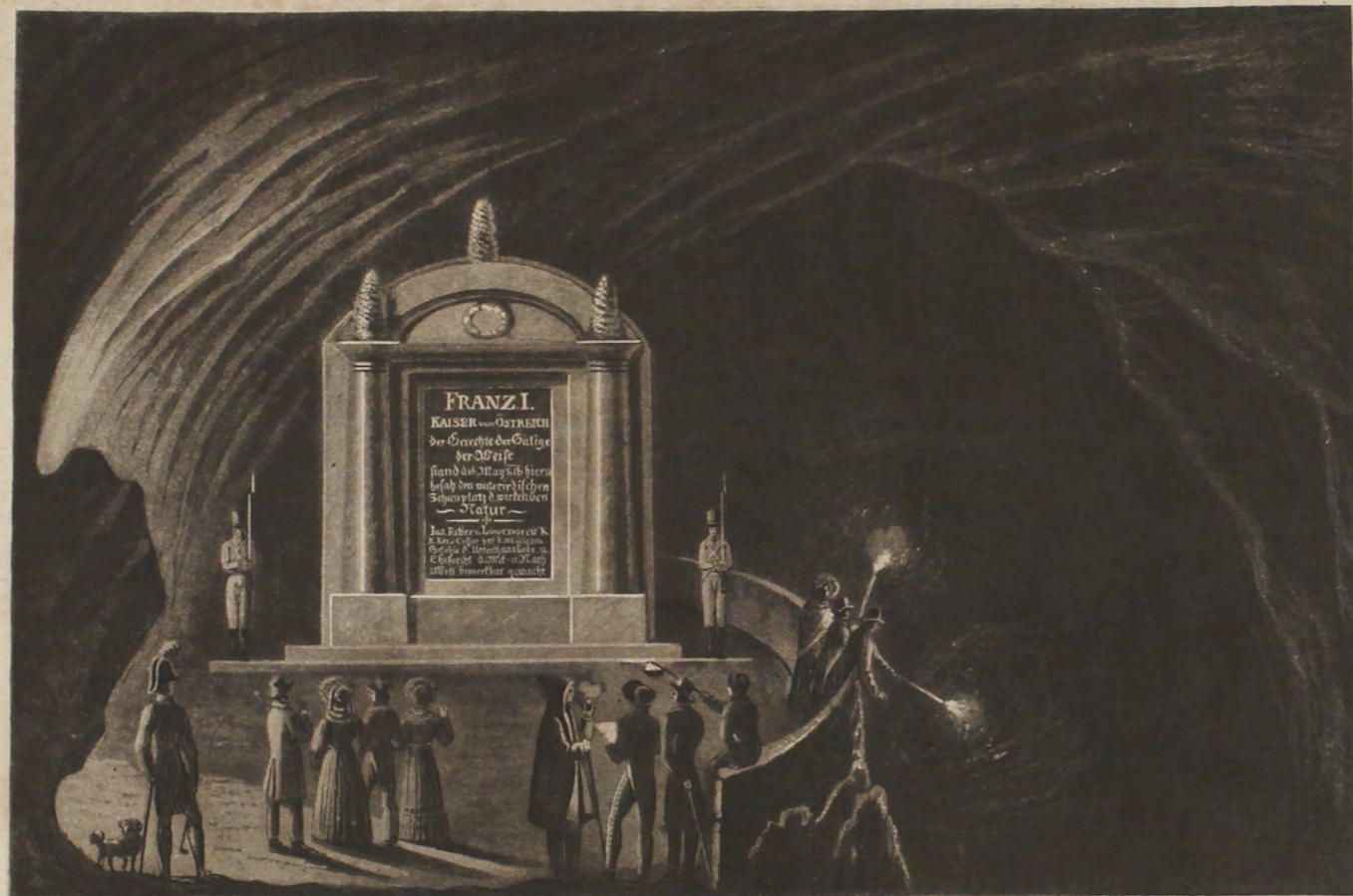
(1.) See Appendix Page 48, Note C.

on the right, & a stout oaken Balustrade on the left hand side. The echoes of the rushing Stream, added to the surrounding darkness, broken by the fitful yet murky glare of the torches & lights, borne by the Guides, striking upon the surrounding Cliffs & petrifications, & faintly disclosing the protean shapes of the various stalactite formations springing from every point, — add to the momentary terror & alarm so sudden a plunge "from the warm precincts of the cheerful day," into these darkling subterranean Regions generally produces on the mind of the Visitor on his introduction to these Caverns. On the further side of the Naturbrücke the pathway widening, leads to a kind of rotive erection of Stone called the Monumente, or memorial, upon the front of which is placed a Tablet commemorative of the Visit of the Emperor Francis 1.st to these Caverns in the Year 1816. From hence, a descent by 23 Stone Steps leads to a small open space or Vault, out of which a narrow passage forms the approach to the more ancient portion of these Caverns, which as would appear from the Names yet remaining inscribed in various parts of the sides, were known & visited as early as the 14.th Century. The access afforded by this passage to the ancient Caverns is found by Visitors generally to be so difficult & inconvenient, that they are on that account, but seldom explored by Strangers, though abounding in Objects of considerable interest. A Description however, of this portion of the Adelsberg Caverns will be found at the end of this Work, together with a list of several Names of those who have recorded their visits to these extraordinary productions of Nature in Ages long since past, & which from their great antiquity, add

much to the interest of the Spot. From the open space or Vault above-mentioned, proceeding along a passage provided with 23 Stone Steps, a kind of Station or second landing place is reached, from whence the naturally formed Arch previously described as the Naturbrücke, is distinctly visible. Continuing further & descending by a passage of 33 Steps, the Visitor arrives at a strongly constructed wooden Dam or Pier, built to restrain the rapid flow of the River in its downward course into the bowels of the Mountain, & attached to this Dam is a Bridge, also strongly constructed of Wood, both together making a length of Way equal to 149 feet.

From the middle of this Bridge an extensive View is obtained of one of the most capacious of all these Caverns, formed by a combination of circular Cavities & termed the Great Dome, or Cupola (for Dom) its striking resemblance to which object having obtained for it that Name.

The dimensions of this astonishing Hall or Cavern are 93 feet in height, 149 feet in breadth, & its situation is distant from the entrance to the Caverns, 527 feet. The interior presents in every part of its spacious Area, incrustations of grey glittering Stalactite in curious & varied forms; its sides are ribbed & groined with layers of Calcareous depositions, & its various Concavities are pendant with pinnacles & spiral formations of petrified Concretion. At one side of the Dome the River Fork enters, flowing in a direction from N. to S., & taking a descending Course, the Mass of Water reverberates in prolonged echoes through the precincts of this spacious Cavern, & at some distance further towards the E. the River becomes finally buried in the depths of the Mountain, disappearing from

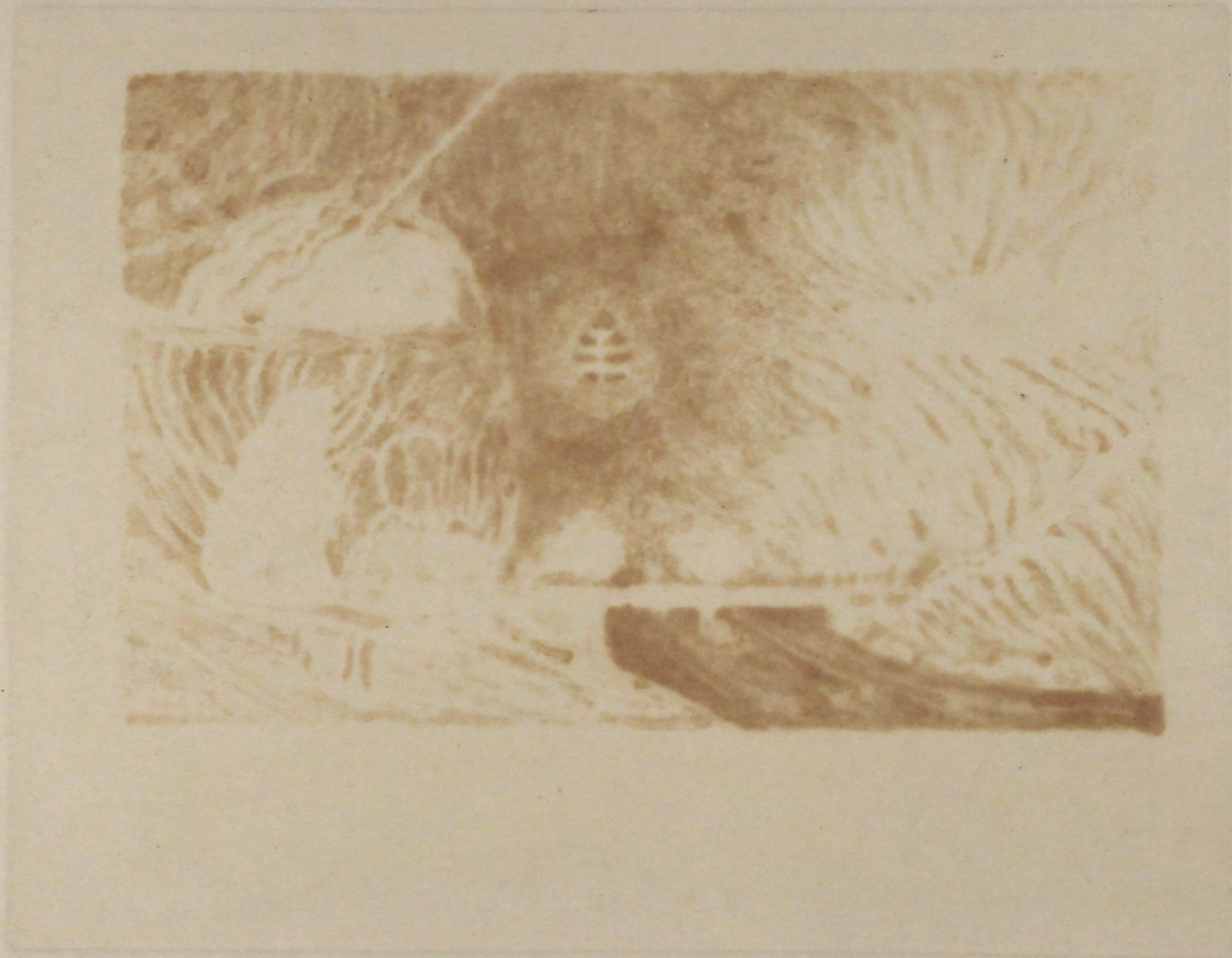


Schaffner del.

Dröler sc.

*Monument
S. M. des Kaisers Franz I.*

Memorial erected in Honour of the Emperor Francis I. Visit to the Caverns in 1816.



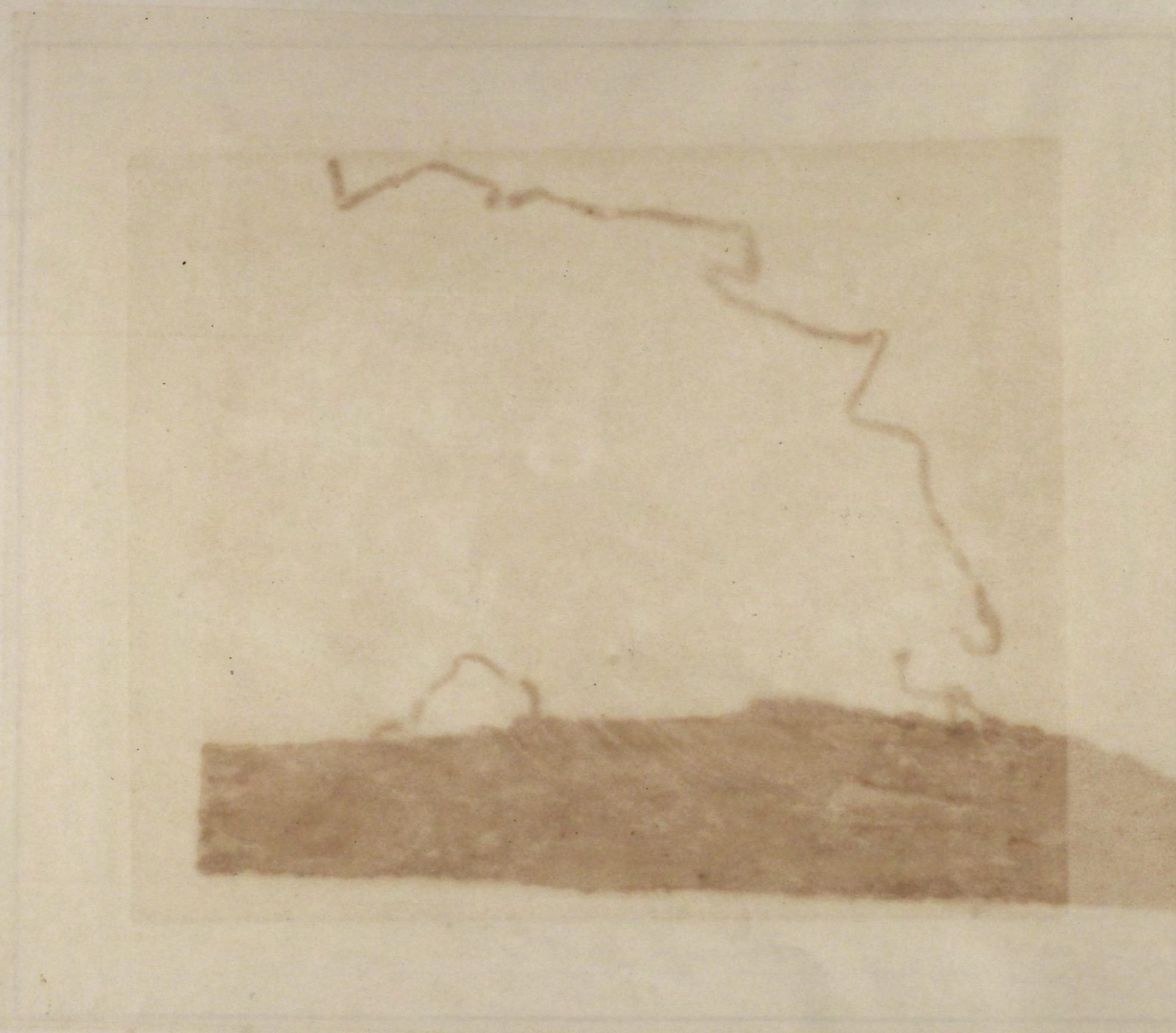


Steffens del.

C. Huber sc.

*Ansicht des großen Domes
(St. Isaac's Cathedral)*

View of the Great Dome.



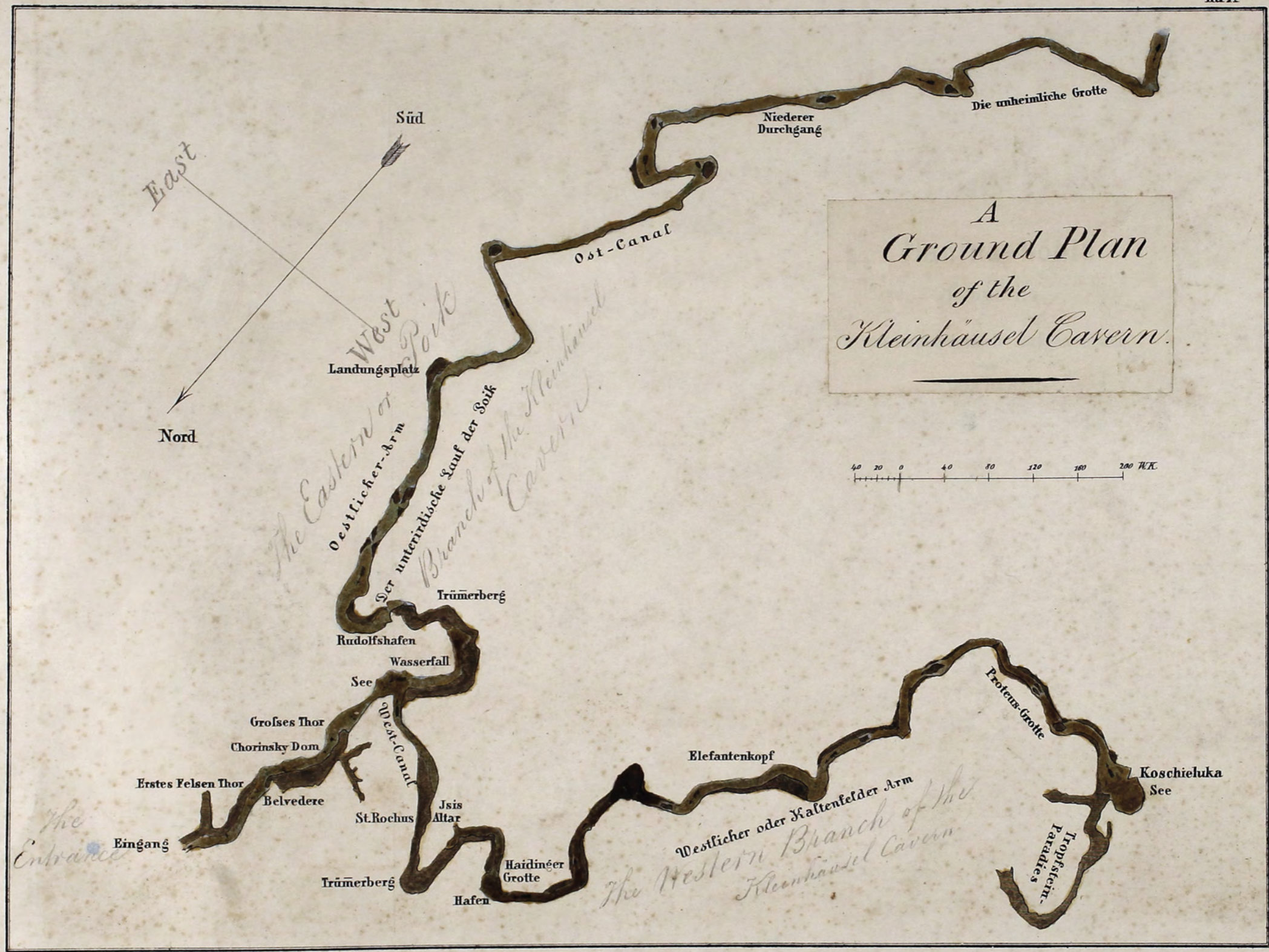




Schubert u. d. Nat. ges.

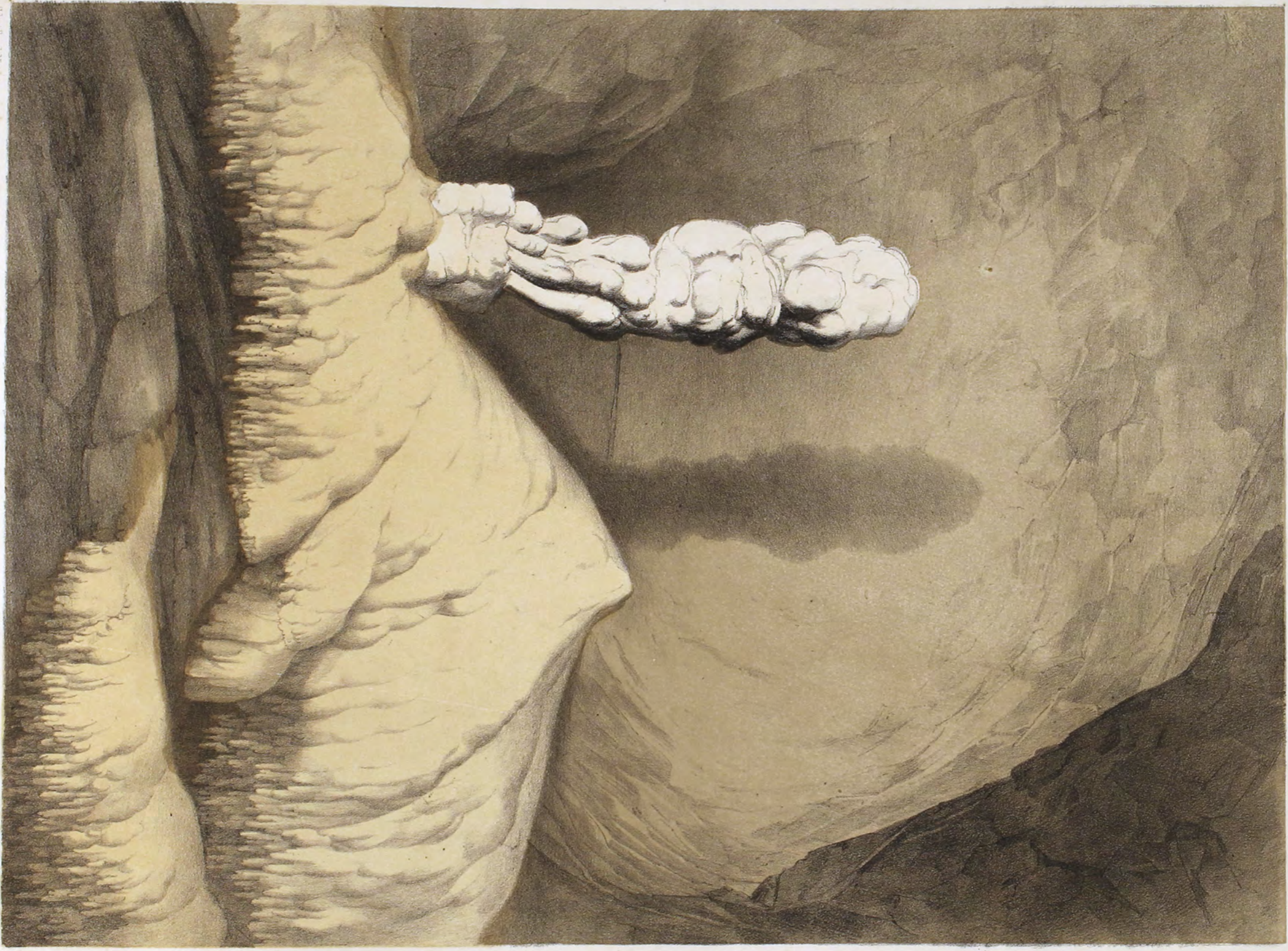
Jon. Valer. Lith.

The Mouth of the Kleinhäusel Grotto near Planina, through which the River Poik passes, discharging itself at this Opening.



13v





*A remarkable Mass of Shalvachite in the Steinhaüsel Grube called the
 1710's Columnar,
 from its fancied resemblance to the Statue of that Goddess.*

T. I. XII

144

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

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the Scene altogether. But though the direction of the River cannot be traced after leaving this Cavern, it doubtless pursues a lengthened & devious Course at very considerable depths below the level of its entrance, through the groups of the Adelsberg Mountains; & at length is found to emerge, or rather come out from their bases in an opposite direction to its original entrance, at some distance from the Village of Adelsberg, towards the N. at a Cavity or Hollow called die Magdalena-Wöhle, or Magdalen's Grotto;⁽¹⁾ where, after a short distance, it appears to collect its scattered streams, & at about a post Station distant from Adelsberg, takes its course from the Village of Planina as far as Kleinhäusel,⁽²⁾ under the name of the Urñ, by which Name it is commonly known in that Neighbourhood. The identification of this Stream with the Poik has been attempted to be proved by the assertion of the fact, that planks of Wood thrown into the Stream that flows through the Adelsberg Caverns, have re-appeared in the Urñ at Planina after an interval of 10 or 12 hours time; — the emancipated Poik thus giving a distinct & visible proof of its existence & onward Course.

* Murray's Hand Book S. Germany, Route 248.

(1) The Magdalena Grotto is distant about 3 Miles from Adelsberg. It is entered through one of the funnel-shaped hollows which abound in the lime stone of this district. It is one continued descent at an angle of nearly 45 degrees; it is of great breadth, & supported by a great number of massive stalactite Columns. At the bottom runs a slow & sluggish stream^(a) in which that singular animal the Proteus Unguinus, for which this Cave is remarkable, exists. (Hamilton's Asia Minor.)

(2) No one should omit to visit the Grotto of Kleinhäusel which is distant about half a Mile from the Village of Planina. Out of it a River, supposed to be the Poik, which buries itself in the Caverns of Adelsberg, re-appears. The Cavern has been explored for 3 Miles; the outer Cavern is as lofty & grand as that of Adelsberg. The approach is rough, & when the Stream is full, access is rendered both difficult & inconvenient, particularly for Ladies.^(b)

(Murray's Hand Book S. Germany, Route 248, &)
(Two Consolations in Travel, by Sir H. Davy, dialogue IV.)

a. See Appendix at Page 48, Note d.

b. See Ditto c; U.

DESCRIPTION
of the
NEW CAVERNS discovered in the Year 1819,
and known by the Names of the CROWN PRINCE
and KING FERDINAND'S
CAVERNS.

PROCEEDING onward, from the Great Dome by a descent of 89 Steps, & passing through various Cavities which possess but slight Claims on the Visitor's notice, his attention is at length drawn to the exploration of the recently discovered portions of the Adelsberg Caverns, a particular examination of which, will be found highly deserving of his attentive Research. The Dome was the only part of these Caverns known down to the Year 1819, when a Labourer working in this Cave, accidentally broke through a Screen of Stalactite, & discovered that this was "but the Vestibule of the most magnificent of all the Temples which Nature has built for herself in the bowels of the Rock, & in the Region of perpetual Night".

This portion of the Caverns consists of a Range or Series of Halls or Chambers, as they may be termed, connected with each other by passages or Galleries, & diverging into Side Caverns or Halls, varying in size, & filled with objects interesting both in form, position, & appearance;

as well from the variety, beautiful purity & transparency, as from the profusion of their Stalactite formations. The Stalactical Matter pervades almost every part of these Caverns; it paves the floor; hangs in pendants from the roof, coats & plasters the wall, cements together fallen masses of Rock, & forms Screens, partitions & pillars. The only Sound heard in these subterranean Halls far hidden "from the garish eye of day", is that produced by the fall of drops of Water charged with lime, which will be found on examination to tip each pendant Mass, forming an ascending Spire or Stalagmite, on the spot where it descends.

Sometimes uniting with the Stalagmite below, these Masses of Concretion form pillars worthy to support the walls of a Cathedral; in other parts are found a Crop of minute Spicula rising from the floor; in others a Cluster of slender Columns remind the beholder of the tracery of a Gothic Chapel, or of the twinnings & interlacing of the ascending & descending branches of the banyan tree. The fantastic shapes of various Masses & Combinations have given rise to particular Names which have been applied to them by the Guides on the discovery of these Caverns, according to the likenesses which they imagine can be traced in them to real Objects, & in the course of time these Names have received general adoption, & it must be admitted, they are for the most part, very appropriate;—in the immense variety of forms & shapes found in these Caverns, these appellations serve the useful purpose of more powerfully attracting the attention of Visitors,

which without this species of Symbolism, would soon be either dissipated, or lost altogether.

The Access to this series of Caverns will be found both commodious & easy, being approached by a flight of 82 Steps constructed of stone and furnished with strong wooden side rails & parapets of Rock, so as to enable Visitors to find their way without difficulty or danger. This constructed pathway leads to a Cavern or antechamber, the height of which is about 16 feet, & is distant from the main entrance to the Caverns, 206 yards.

It is termed in German, "das zweite Monument", from a votive erection which is placed here to commemorate the Visit of the Emperor Ferdinand 1st (then King of Hungary & Crown Prince of Austria) to these Caverns in the Year 1819.

From this point, proceeding onwards by somewhat of an ascent, & having passed the small Mass of grey Stalactite formation termed (die Kanzel) the pulpit; the passage becomes rather more contracted in its dimensions, but after some distance grows wider, & leads by a descent of 9 Steps cut out of the Stalactite rock, (which forms the basement or floor of these Caverns) into a wide Cavern or Hall, termed (die Fleischbank,) or Butcher's Stall. The protruding Masses of Stalactite formation found here, in Colour white, grey, & streaked with ruddy brown, much resemble in appearance, pieces of Bacon. This Cavern is spacious, its area both level & even, & is in height about 32 feet.

From hence the Visitor is conducted into a Side-Cavern, parallel to the above, particularly distinguished for its Stalactite formations, which are both fanciful & varied in shape & size; rich in hues of Colour,



Schiffersoth del.

G. Döllner sc.

Ansicht des Monumentes

(100 W. R. vom Eingange.)

Memorial erected in Honour of the Visit of the Crown Prince the A.D. Ferdinand to the Caverns in 1819.





J. O.

Disegnato da un Artista in Trieste dopo l'Originale in Olio, apposto per J.O.

View of the Cavern called The English Garden in the Grottoes of Adelsberg.

Brilliant & sparkling like Crystals. The entrance to this Side-Cavern will be found both narrow & low, & the path alternately ascending & descending, owing to the Masses of petrification protruding from its basement, yet it is not on that account inconveniently accessible. It will be found highly curious & interesting owing to the great variety of shapes assumed by the stalactitial concretions while in process of formation, & which are here seen extending from the upper to the lower parts of the Cavern, & also protruding from its sides. These are of the most sparkling & brilliant hues of colour; varying from pure white to white tinged with grey, red & brown, & among them a Mass of Stalactite bearing a strong likeness to a fine antique Bust (antiken Kopf) is particularly striking, & highly deserving of notice. At a certain point of view & under the influence of the torchlight, the resemblance to a piece of Statuary is so strong, as to induce the Spectator readily to conclude that it must be a Work of Art, & not of casual formation. Proceeding onwards at a lower level, a further Cavern or Hall is reached, called (der Englische Garten) the English Garden. The stalactite formations found here are highly interesting & well deserving of close inspection owing to their variety of form, colour, & general appearance, which latter, from several striking & curious resemblances to plants & trees, has acquired for this very interesting Vault, the above title. Some of the concretions rise from the floor of the Cavern in masses to the height of 9 1/2 feet; others are seen protruding downwards from its Roof & Sides to the length of 7 feet; so that the whole Area both above & below, is

set out with stalactitial formations in size varying between the above proportions. ^(1.) Proceeding onwards over a comparatively level track or causeway, & along alternately ascending & descending passages easy of access, the Visitor continues his course surrounded on all sides by thousands of pendant Stalactite formations shaped like huge Icicles & spiral Jets, the points of several of which will be found tipped with a drop of the calcareous fluid or sediment, which in process of time becomes solidified & attached to the extreme point of the super eminent mass, thus forming a base to which successive drops gradually attach themselves, & become resolved into lengthened forms by aggregation. The process of the deposition of the stalactitial Matter as well as the Cause of the various shapes it assumes while in a state of concretion, are here visibly & distinctly perceptible, & the Secret of Nature's handicraft in this vast series of Caverns, is here fully displayed to the curious & attentive Observer. In fact, these formations are nothing more than a series of Concretions or petrifications of which, Water acting upon limestone Rock, is the sole agent. The pathway leads to a Cavern called (die Diamanten Grube) the Diamond Mine, which when it is well lighted up, presents a most brilliant & sparkling appearance owing to the transparency & purity of the Crystalline formations with which it abounds.

Along dry & well constructed Paths traced upon layers of Stalactite concretion deposited by the hand of Nature, & forming a firm & continuous basement, the Visitor proceeds onwards sur-

(1.) See Appendix at page 48, Note C.

rounded by concrete masses of the most varied & fanciful character grey & white in Colour, suggestive to an imaginative mind of forms & shapes the productions of Art; till he arrives at a point where a form known by the name of (der Delphin) the Dolphin, (but more properly termed der Löwe, the Lion) is seen, beyond which, there branches off in a southerly direction, a small Cavity or recess in this Cavern which possessing very little that is interesting either in its form or contents, is not generally visited. Further from hence the Visitor passes on by a slight ascent towards a point where are found various ranges or series of Stalactite formations some of which are termed (die Salami Gehängen) the Links of Sausages, to which they bear a striking resemblance, & others (die Schwämmen) Lines of Sponge, the forms of which, together with the Masses of red, blended with sheets & layers of white Stalactite, producing a rich diversity of tints, are objects highly deserving of particular inspection.

At this point terminates this Branch-Cavern or Side Grotto, as it is termed, so rich in striking & singular formations. Returning from hence to the main line of Caverns (from which the Visitor had just deviated) along the sides of the rocky Walls which form the passages leading to the main line, are to be seen inscribed thousands of Names of Individuals both natives & foreigners, who have visited these Caverns since they have been opened to the public, & many pleasing recognitions of Names dear & familiar are here experienced by separated Friends & Countrymen. Passing beyond

this point the Visitor next arrives at (der Thron) the Throne, or Canopy; a formation the upper part of which is so transparent & resplendent as to cast a reflection on those standing around it: this Object is situated at a distance of 387 Yards from the main Entrance to the Caverns. In retracing his steps along the previously mentioned path which leads to the English Garden & from thence bearing in a direction towards the Fleischbank or Butcher's Stall, the Visitor proceeding further onwards, falls into the main Road through the Caverns, & here enters a passage which terminating in a small narrow Cavity or recess, leads to a Stalactite formation, to which, from a fancied striking resemblance to the well known Groupe so common in Catholic Countries, the name of (der Statue der Mutter Gottes mit ihrem Kinde) the Statue of the Blessed Virgin & her divine Infant, has been given.

This striking Object is highly deserving of a studied inspection, & care should be taken by the Visitor that the Guides are well provided with Lights sufficient to bring out its outlines & prominent parts as distinctly as possible; particularly in throwing a clear strong Light on the receding Wall in the background of the figure.

At a short distance beyond the above Object, the Cavern becomes more spacious & lofty, rising to a height of 186 feet. The Crystallizations which overspread its sides are of a clear white hue, while the Masses of incrustation which line the upper portion of this Cavern are disposed in Curves & ramifications much resembling the lines of Gothic tracery. The floor of this Cavern is for the most part clean

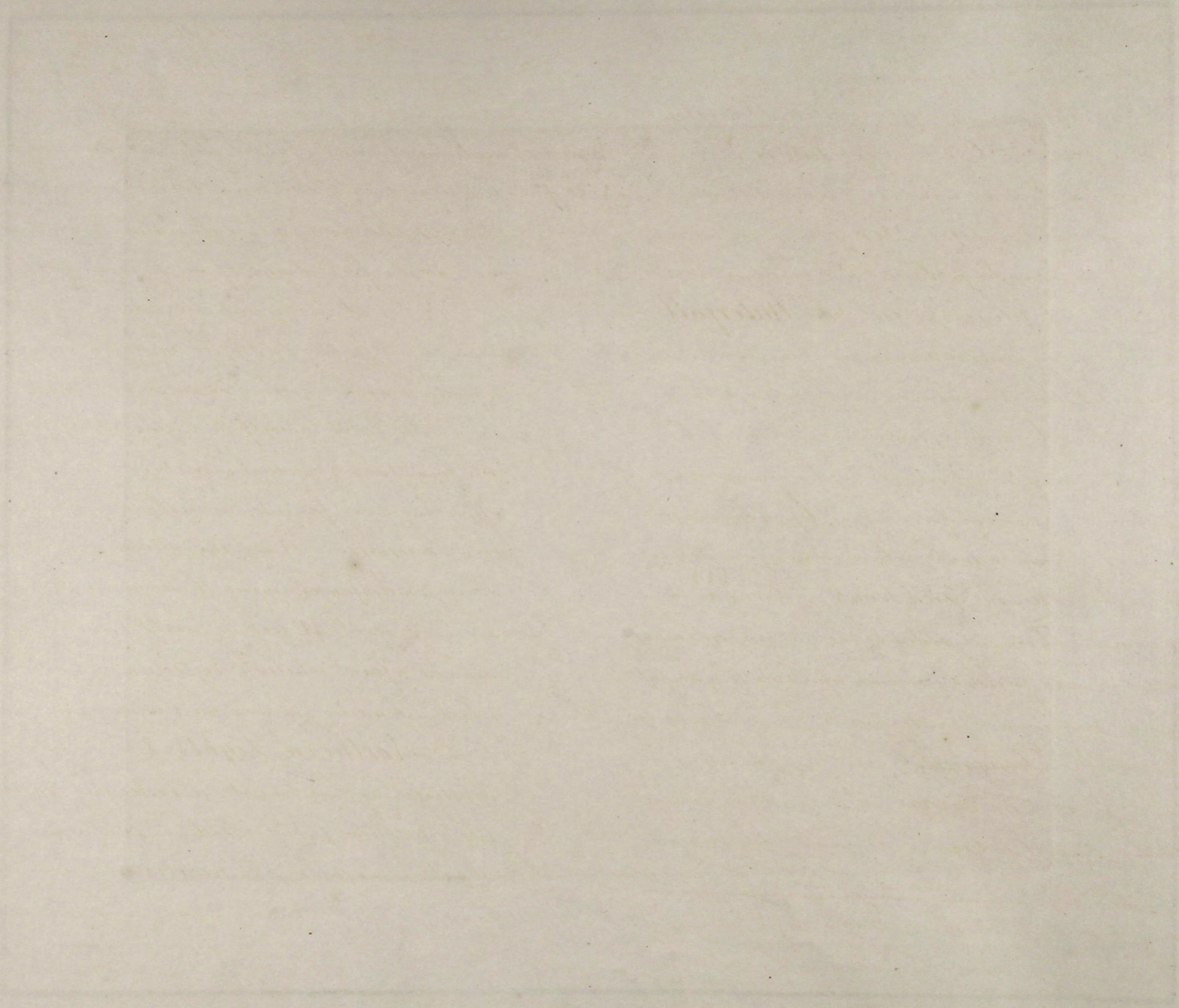


Schafersath del.

G. Biber sc.

Der Thron
in der Prinz Ferdinands-Grotte.

View of the Throne.



I dry, & the Cavern itself is both spacious & airy, & a very convenient approach will be found to the Spot where a formation most appropriately termed (die Vereinigung zweier Herzen) the Two united Hearts, is seen, a most singular & fanciful Creation of Nature.*

*See Appendix at Page 48. Note f.

The pathway now grows narrower & lower till it arrives at a particular Opening, where a delightful Air fresh as the morning breeze, is felt, filling the surrounding Space & heralding the approach to a certain Spot termed (die Wasserfall) the Waterfall; an object highly appropriate to the general Character of the place, & the feelings it inspires. The Stalactite Concretions here met with, both in point of form & Colour will be found worthy of particular inspection. Even with this point is to be seen standing completely isolated a considerable Mass of Stalagmite Concretion, of a conical form, about 6ft. 8 inches high, & 11 inches in diameter, of a blackish or dusky colour, which from its great similarity to the Stock im Eisen, the Iron trunk in Vienna⁽¹⁾, is generally known by that name. Here the sides of the Cavern widen out considerably, & at a short distance further; extend upwards to a height of 40 feet. From hence, surrounded by Stalactite formations varied in Colour & apparently artistic in Design, the Visitor proceeds along a well made track or Causeway, till by a narrow but commodious passage, & crossing three Steps, he arrives at a spacious Opening, from whence, surrounded by concretions & formations of great variety & beauty, he is conduc-

ted into a spacious & lofty Hall in which, the bold projections of the craggy Rocks which form its sides & the imposing bulk of their masses as they appear to tower aloft in the dim obscure viewed through the medium of murky torchlight, are suggestive of impressions of awful grandeur & sublime terror, which the obscurity of the surrounding Scene is highly calculated to produce on the mind of a Stranger, at the first sight of such remarkable objects.

Leaving this interesting Cavern & continuing further onwards along an artificially constructed raised Causeway or dike provided with a protecting wooden railing on one side, & a rocky screen or wall on the other; the Visitor finds himself in a wide Area or Space, surrounded by Stalactite formations & pendant concretions of various shades of red & white colour stretching away far into the distance, by which a curious perspective View is formed. When the attendant Lights are skilfully distributed at proper distances among these pendant masses, from a point in the distance about 40 feet in height from the level on which the Spectator stands, a faint whitish reflection is emitted from the Stalactites, which extending through the distance, presents a striking resemblance to the Northern Lights, both in point of brilliancy & that wavy outstretching movement the latter frequently assume; & by this name (der Nordlicht) it is called. This is a highly interesting Spectacle, & if well managed by the torchbearers, & a sufficient quantity of lights engaged, a most pleasing illusion is produced. Proceeding further in the same line of way, a formation known by the name of (Petri stuhl)

(1) This is one of the traditional monuments of the City of Vienna. It is said to be the trunk of a tree, the only one remaining of a vast forest which in remote Ages extended to this Spot, now the heart of the City. It has been so completely bound round with hoops of Iron to preserve it, & so many nails have been driven into it by the wandering Apprentices of Vienna when setting out on their travels, that there is now no longer any space left for any more; & the trunk has become, as it were, a tree of Iron, so as to give to the adjacent parts of the Street the name of Stock am Eisen platz.

or the Seat of Peter, is reached. Continuing his Course, the Visitor proceeds along a broad firmly constructed Causeway well secured with railings & parapets, & after crossing an ascent divided by 2 Steps, a Side Grotto presents itself to notice, which forms a communication with the Tanzsaal, as will be perceived in the subsequent description of that celebrated Cavern. Passing by this Side grotto & at some further distance beyond it, a noble lofty Cavern or Hall, 54 feet in height, is passed through, & proceeding further on by an ascent of 2 Steps, & afterwards taking a descending course for some distance, facilitated by a flight of 20 Steps leading downwards, & leaving on one Side the formation termed (das Stockhaus) the Blockhouse, a point is reached from which a sudden & unexpected View is presented to the Spectator of the lofty & extensive Cavern termed (der Tanz oder Turnier Saal) the Assembly Room, or Fitt Yard, the most popularly known & celebrated of all the Adelsberg Caverns. This Cavern is situated at a distance of 589 Yards from the main Entrance to the Caverns. Its form is that of a large & lofty Hall or Vault; its proportions being 155 feet in length, 93 feet in width; the basement forming an Area of 372 feet. Its curving rocky Sides stretch upward, to an elevation of about 200 feet from the basement to the Roof.

Its area or basement is both level & even throughout, & the temperature of this Cavern is mildly cool without dampness, & near at hand is found a Spring of pure fresh Water, both whole-

some & agreeable to the taste. In this Hall, the construction & the proportions of which are solely owing to the power of Nature exerted here upon a scale unprecedently great & marvellous, a Festival is annually celebrated at Whitsuntide. An assemblage of from four to five hundred persons of both sexes, consisting of the Inhabitants of the village of Adelsberg & the neighbourhood, as well as Strangers from more remote parts attracted by the novelty of the Entertainment, people this Cavern; when its lofty Vault resounds with the Strains of enlivening Music, while its firm & soundset area is trodden by the blyth & nimble steps of bands of merry dancers, whose forms & evolutions are invested with a high degree of interest & singularity of appearance, arising from the reflections cast by their figures against the sides of the Cavern, illuminated as it is on those occasions, in every part.*

On the left hand side of this hall, & towards the middle, will be found a narrow Opening leading into a passage about 13 1/2 feet in length, by which an access is obtained to another small narrow Grotto or Cavern, even in level with the Tanzsaal, & which is the same as the Side Grotto previously referred to as being connected with this Hall. The dimensions of this Side Grotto, as it is termed, are 20 feet in height, & 25 feet in width, & its basement is both level & even. This small Cavern will be found highly interesting owing to the brilliancy of several of its Chrystallizations, & the pearly hue of the calcareous Concretions with which it is filled.

* See Appendix at Page 48, Notes G. }
H. }

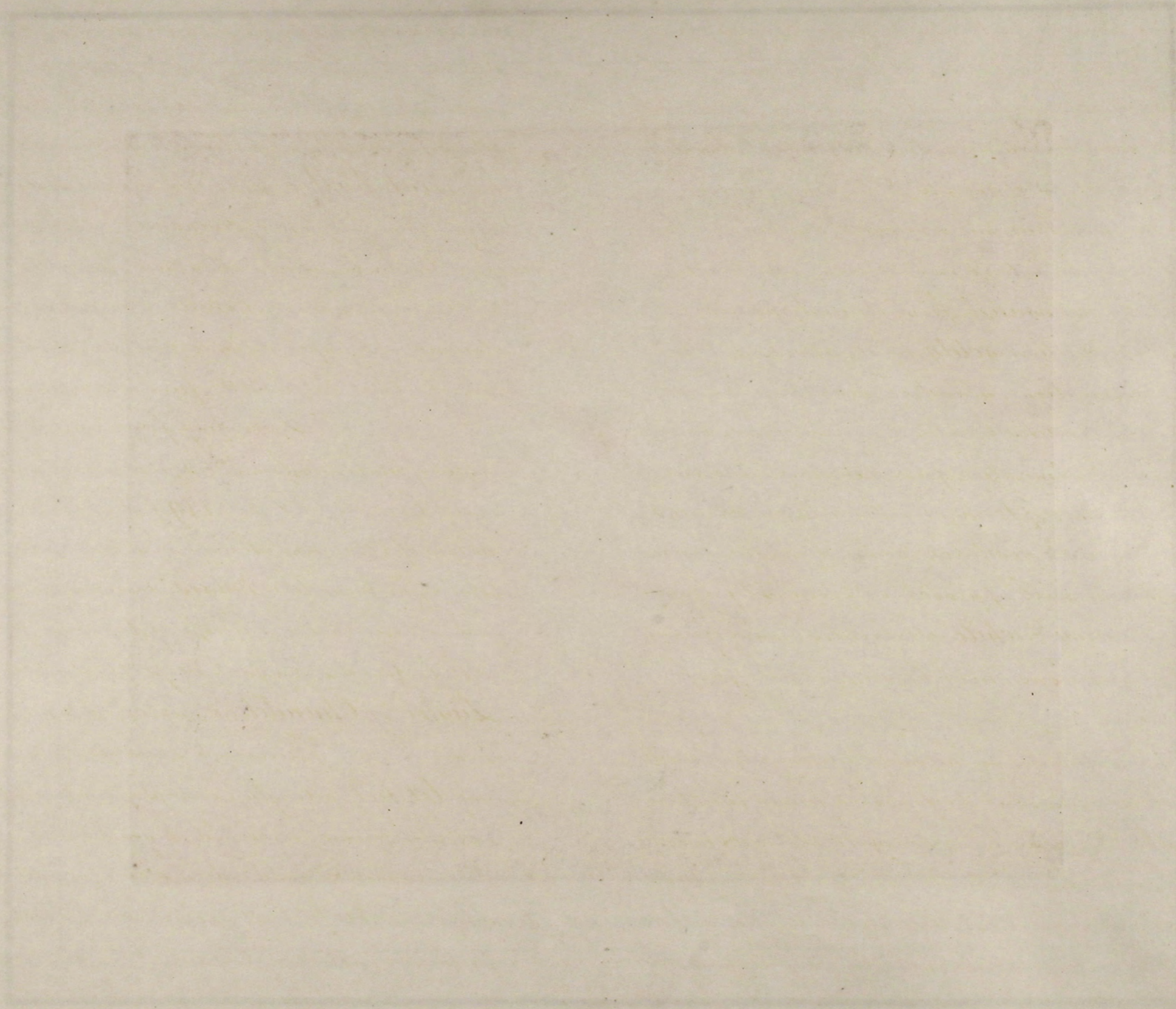


Schiffers del.

o. Böhler.

Der Turniersaal.

The Dancing Hall.



Proceeding from hence by a narrow passage, & winding through the Clefts of the Rocks, the Visitor at length returns to the same point at which the Stockhaus previously mentioned, is situated.

Quitting the Taursaal & taking a straightforward direction further onward over three steps or ascents, & passing between masses of Concretions of the most brilliant whiteness, grouped in columnar forms, among which may be noticed in particular, one large Mass or Column, entirely separated from its underportion or Base, & supported in its position solely by its attachment to a Column of a similar description, standing near it. At some distance further on, the Stalactites by which the Visitor is surrounded will claim his attention & admiration from their surprising variety of forms, sizes, & admixture of tints, together with the shadows & relief produced by their folds & positions, as the Light strikes upon their surfaces. At length he will approach a Cavern 32 feet in height, remarkable for its grey & white Stalactites, many of which, both of large & small dimensions, may be seen in process of gradual formation.

Continuing in the same direction along a well constructed pathway, the Visitor arrives at the formation termed (die kleine Glocke) the Little Bell, & passing by numerous strata of Rocks encrusted with white Stalagmites, is at length introduced into a lofty vaulted space or chamber, the sides of which, richly decorated with masses of sparkling incrustations, appear to contract gradually as if denying all

further access. A small narrow opening will however be found leading from this Chamber, about 7 feet in height, forming a passage which becomes wider after arriving at what is termed (der Altar) the Altar, & which after some short distance, leads to the figure called (der grossen Glocke) the Great Bell. This is a Mass of Stalactite formation possessing the singular property of resonance to such a degree, that on being struck by one of the Guides furnished with a piece of Stalactite somewhat in the shape of the Clapper or Hammer of a bell, a sound is emitted, which to the Visitor stationed at a proper distance from this object, resembles the deep & heavy tone of a large metal Bell, from which circumstance it derives its Name.

Proceeding from hence & passing between pendant masses of Stalactite formations, the Visitor arrives at a well constructed raised Causeway or Dyke, 149 feet in length, which conducts him through groups of Columnar Masses most beautifully white & transparent in colour, in form like pillars, some ranging as high as 32 feet, towards a large Cavity or Recept of dripstone formation, in which latter will be found a pendant Mass of Stalactite called (der Luster) the Lustre or Chandelier; an object which is well worthy of observation.

Proceeding onwards by means of another raised Causeway 62 feet in length, a mass of white Stalactite measuring 31 feet in circumference is reached, beyond which is a large Cavern or Hall where on the left hand side is seen a formation closely resembling in shape a Night Owl; (Nachtule) which name it bears. Going further on, a view is obtained of the so called (Springbrunnen) Foun-

tain; where from the top or head of a concrete Mass brilliantly white in colour, a jet or Stream of a ruddy tint shoots upwards, like a Steam of water from a fountain; its strong resemblance to which, has caused it to be so designated.

From this point bearing towards the left, is a narrow, low, hollow passage or defile, the floor of which is incrustated with sparkling white Stalactites, & its sides coated with layers of a Crystallization in point of Colour much resembling bright yellow Wax. The strong similarity of the concretions in this spot to the previously mentioned substance, has caused it to be termed (die Wachskammer) the Wax Room. This passage terminates in a depth or recess which forms the End of this offshoot from the main line of the Caverns.

In regaining the main track or road through the Caverns after quitting the above deviation, the Visitor will arrive at a certain point in his way, which is known by the name of (der Mondschein) or Moonshine Point; where the Guide by the skilful introduction of lights in the upper part of the Vault, contrives to produce an Effect on the surrounding space & its contents, very much resembling the light of the rising Moon.

Proceeding from hence, the next object claiming notice is a Mass of brilliant Stalactites termed (der Kohlofen) the Coal Stove, or Burner, from its similarity to the article bearing

At some further distance the Visitor

arrives at a singular formation & which is generally much admired, entitled (das Bild.) It is situated at the distance of 951 Yards from the Main Entrance to the Caverns. It forms the upper part of a large columnar Mass of drip Stone Concretion projected downwards from the roof of the Vault to a length of 48 feet, & is produced by aggregating particles of solidified calcareous fluid on the same principle that Icicles are formed. The End of this Mass however, does not yet reach the level of the floor, & in consequence has the appearance of having been divided or cut off in the middle. In its upper part this column resolves itself into the form of a parallelogram 8 feet in height & 3 1/4 inches in depth, inclosing a field or pannel of a white colour. ^(1.) From its singularity as well as its artistic shape & appearance, it has obtained the name of (das Bild) the Picture; & as a curious production of Nature, it possesses high claims to the notice of the Spectator.

Further on towards the right, stands (die Orgel) the Organ. This is composed of a series of Stalactites slender in form, standing close together in much the same manner as rows of Organ pipes. Another Stalactite formation called (die Mumien) the Mummies, is formed in this spot, which is distant 1033 Yards from the main entrance. When this Mass is sufficiently & skilfully illuminated, it presents to view a very interesting groupe of Objects. The Colour displayed is whitish red shaded throughout with a tinge of grey; towards the lower parts

(1.) Schmidt describes it of a dark reddish brown Colour.

* See Appendix
at Page 48.
Note I.

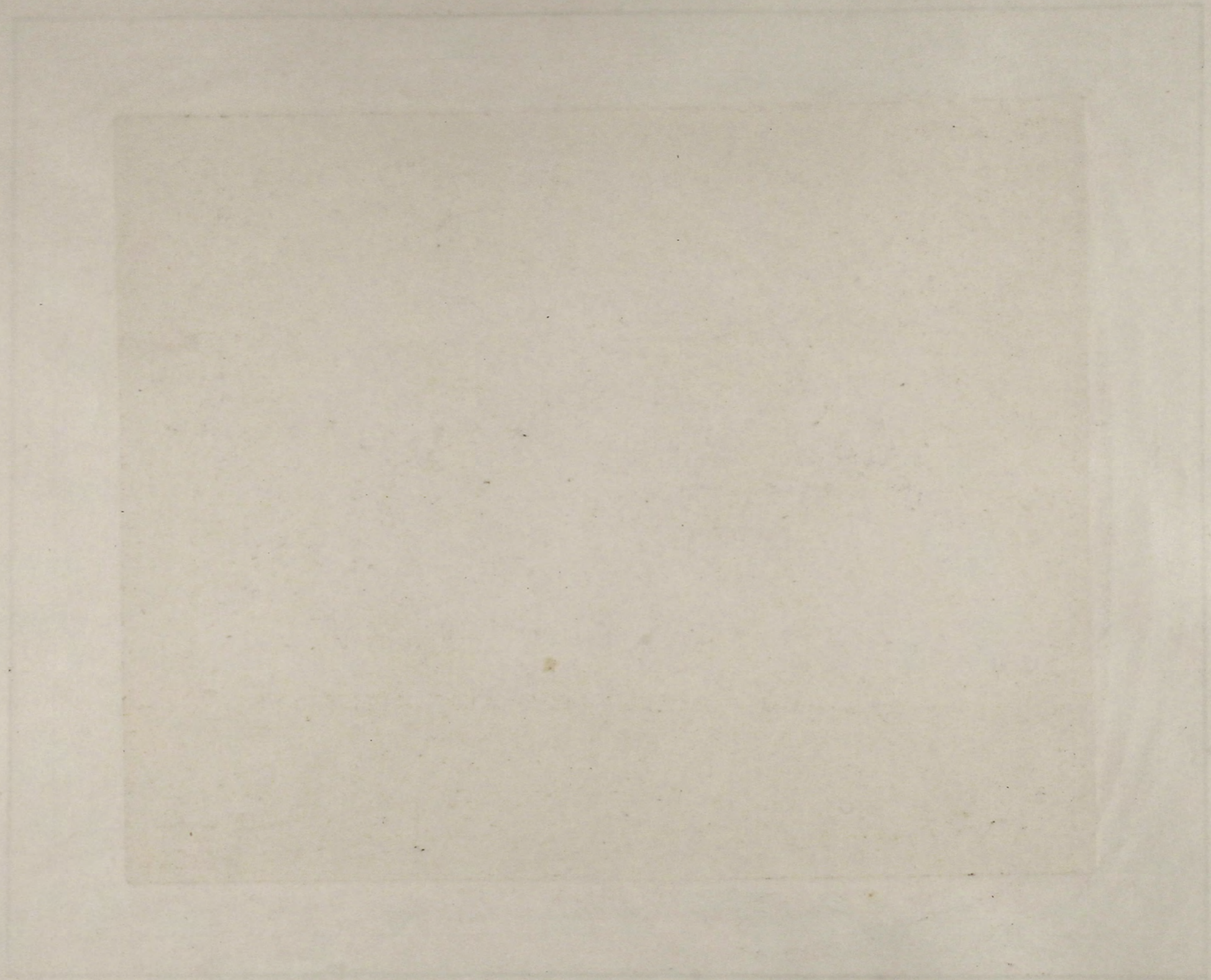


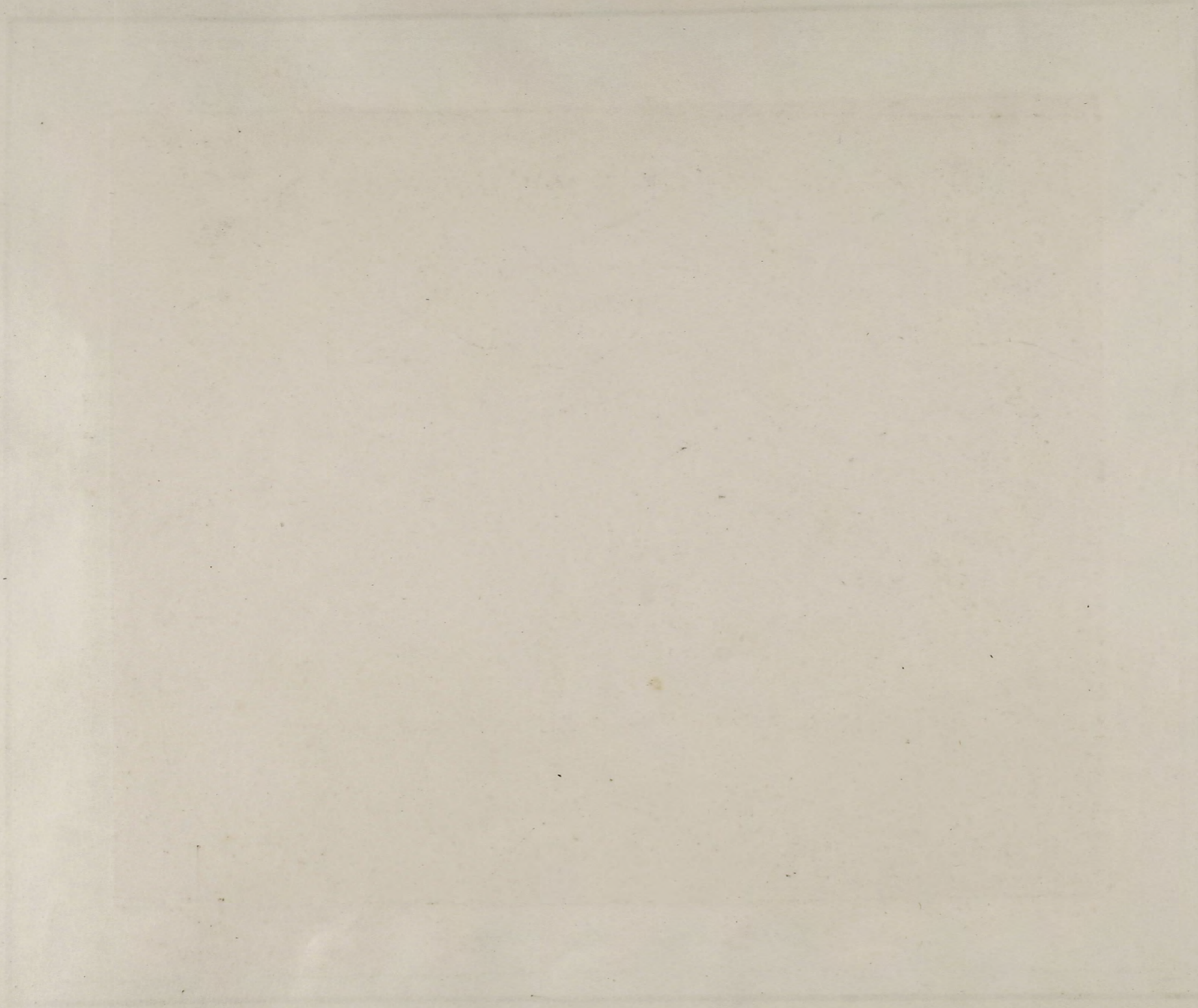
Front A. Schaffner

Bl. 11.

*Ansicht der Gegend zum Bilde.
460 W. N. vom Eingange.*

View of the Picture Column.





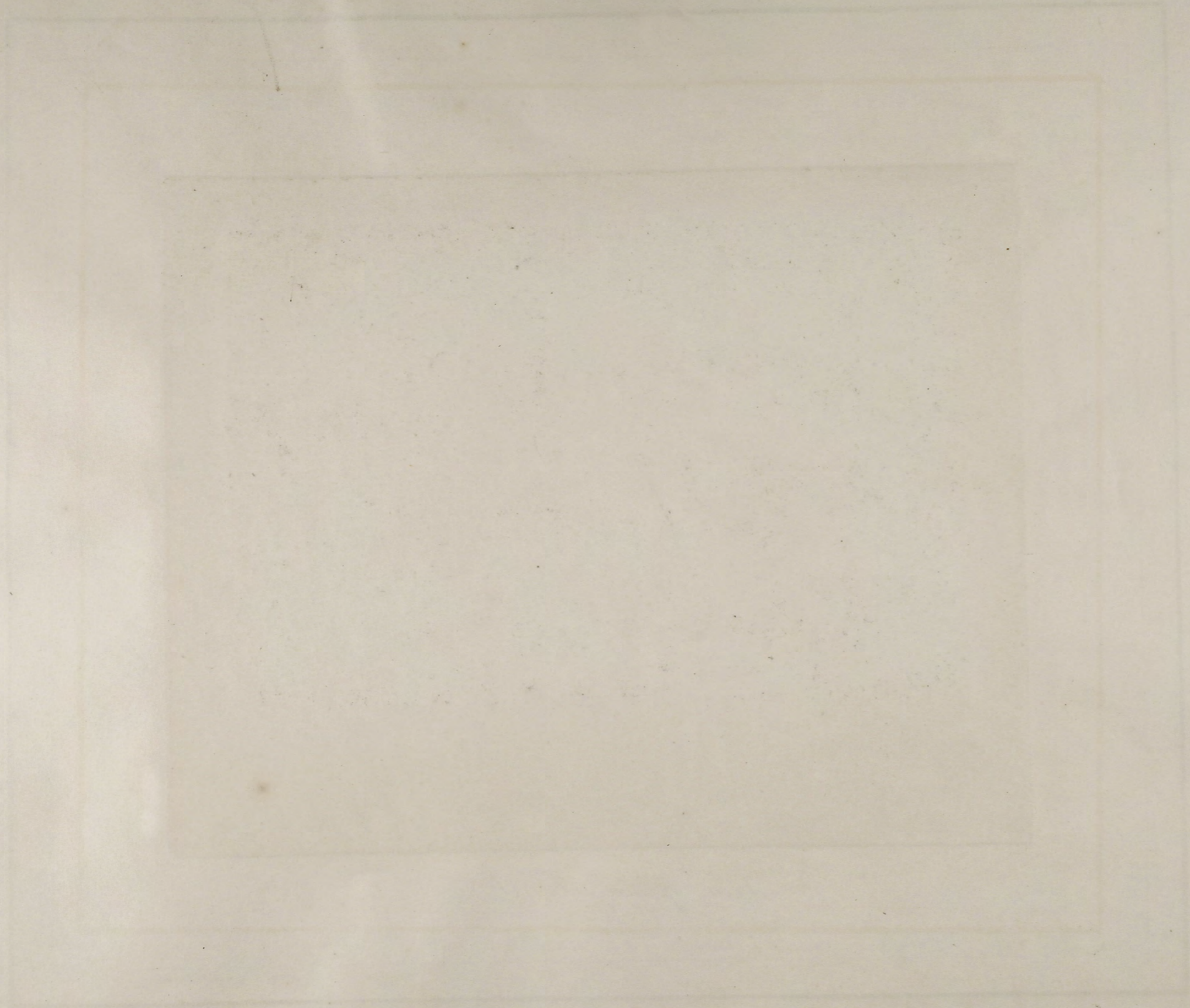


Front A. Schaffner.

Tafel II.

*Ansicht der Mumien
300 W. R. vom Eingange.*

View of the Mummies.





*Ansicht des Grabes.
525 W. N. vom Eingange.*

View of the Tomb.

running in wavy lines of tints. Beneath the Mummy piles, & directly under the place of the largest, is a passage which connects itself with the constructed pathway which lies to the left, & will easily be found going from hence. The Walls of all this portion of the Caverns inclosing the above described Objects, are composed of piles of rugged, bare, grey Rock, protruding from various parts of which, on the left hand side from the entrance, some very beautiful Stalactites will be found.

A well made & dry track or pathway leads the Visitor further on, from which a prospect is obtained of (das Grab) the Sepulchre or Tomb, as it is termed. This is a Mass of overhanging Dripstone formation, which from the continued pendant drippings becoming solidified & formed into Columns, together with similar masses springing from the floor upwards, in all parts of the Cavity, appear likely in the course of time to fill it up entirely. ^(1.) In this Vault or Cavity, which is about 36 feet in height, the foundations of which are formed of undulating layers or incrustations, various noble white Masses, pillar shaped & fluted, make a great display.

On the left hand side from this spot, the Visitor passes into a very interesting Side Grotto or Cavern, measuring about 51 Yards in width, the way to which has only recently been constructed. Passing between masses & broken fragments of Rock, & Stalactite formations, an opportunity is afforded of observing the gradual formation of various Masses of mixed red & white Petrifications. Several of these stand quite disenga-

ged & isolated, while others protruding from the white sides of the calcareous Rock, form partly coloured masses of concretion of singular combinations of form & of blended tints; all of which, to a scientific observer, will be found both curious & interesting.

At about the distance of 207 Yards further on, is to be seen a very beautiful Cavern of the dimensions of 56 feet in breadth, & of 67 feet in height. Here the Strata of white drip Stone are in gradual process of being overlaid with red petrifications, & on the same spot is found a gradually increasing groupe of Stalactites of a flesh Colour, well deserving of observation. In this Side Cavern the forms which the pendant Masses & Sheets of grey & white Stalactite assume are worthy of examination; resolving themselves into forms of Curtains & Hangings draped in folds. The Commissioners who have in charge the general Arrangements & management of these Caverns, have at considerable expence laid down a passage to this very interesting Cavern, & have further taken the pains to open a Communication between this & another adjacent Side Cavern of which we shall give some description subsequently.

In retracing his path towards the main line of the Caverns, & bearing towards the left & passing the Grab, (the Tomb) at a short distance beyond which, the Visitor will approach a Mass of Stalagmite on his left hand side, of a Columnar shape, the largest in Bulk of any that has hitherto been discovered throughout these Caverns. It measures 62 feet in Circumference, having a diameter from

(1.) See Appendix at Page 48, Note K.

25 to 27 feet, & is 20 feet in height. The appearance of such a Mass of Slip Stone formation cannot fail to excite the astonishment of the Spectator when he is informed that upon the most exact observation it is found that this Mass increases in height $1\frac{1}{12}$ cubic Inch yearly, owing to the continuous deposition of Calcareous matter which takes place, thus adding by incrustation to its height. ^(1.)

Proceeding from hence the Visitor arrives at a formation very correctly termed (*die Schapodeln* or *Sabots*) distant about 113 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards from the principal entrance to the Cavern. This is a splendid production of Nature. It is in Colour pure white & quite transparent, & is disposed in folds or pleats, having a small edging or trimming running through the folds, the draping & general disposition of which being such as to give this formation a close resemblance to the Frills or Ruffles of a Man's Shirt, whence it takes its name (*Sabots*.) * Not less worthy of observation is the imposition of the various layers or strata of the rocky walls forming the sides of this Cavern. On the left is perceived a broken columnar Mass which leans towards the Rocks forming the side of the Cavern, & by the dripping deposition emanating from its mass has already attached itself by a fresh formation to the side of the rock. This Vault or Hall is 30 feet in height, level & horizontal in its outlines, & is very spacious.

Through a clear airy passage, dry & convenient,

the path leads to a point known by the name of the (*großen Cypresse*) the larger Cypress Tree. Here piles of rugged & precipitous rock tower aloft on each side, & Masses of white & grey Stalactite varying in form & dimensions, line the way leading to the Cypress tree, which is a Mass of reddish coloured Stalagmite 24 feet in height, & 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Circumference, slender in form, standing erect & quite detached.

Leaving a smaller formation standing near to the above, called (*der kleine Cypresse*) the smaller Cypress Tree, we pass on over a Soil or foundation formed by superimposed layers of incrustation of a wavy undulating character, & of a ruddy tinge of Colour, which circumstances have obtained for it the title of (*das rothe Meer*) the Red Sea. Owing to the admixture of the red calcareous deposition with the white, in their diffusion all around the floor of the Cavern, a singularly amalgamated Incrustation has been formed, which together with the fanciful incorporation of the two tints, will be found Objects highly worthy of inspection. From hence the Visitor passes through a passage or Avenue 30 feet in height, between inclosing Masses of Rock, & along a well constructed Pathway by an ascent of 3 Steps, towards the so termed (*Canonen Säule*) Cannon Column, which is situated 1240 Yards distant from the main Entrance. This Mass is 24 feet high, & measures 20 ft. 6 inches in Circumference, & about 8 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

It is of a pure white Colour, brilliant & sparkling, & on being struck, gives out a clear pleasing Sound. Further on, after

^(1.) See Appendix at Page 48, Note 1.



*Ansicht der Gegend zu den Schapodeln (Tabots) genannt
550 W. N. vom Eingange.*

View of the Trilts, the Self-supporting Broken Column, &c.



Adelsberger - Grotte

*Adelsberger - Grotte
Der Vorhang*

Lith. J. Wincke

The Curtain - Front View.



DER VORHANG.

625 Klafter zum Haupt-Bingange entfernt.



Del. A. Schallensck kr. Ing.

M. Charl. sc. in Luitbuck.

*Ansicht des Vorhanges mit der Kanonnen Säule im Hintergrunde.
625 W. Hft. vom Eingange.*

View of the Curtain, with the Cannon Column in the Background.

passing through a lofty airy Cavern, & continuing his progress between huge overhanging Walls of Rock, the Visitor will arrive at a Spot termed (die Reitschule) the Riding School; in the middle of which is a Block of Stalactite in the form of a Pillar, such as are usually placed in Riding Schools, & which has given rise to the name.

Beyond the above Object, the Visitor enters a Cavern or Hall 40 feet in height, situated at a distance of 1292 Yards from the main Entrance, in which is to be seen the most surprising Stalactite formation hitherto discovered in these Caverns; a natural Curiosity which since its discovery has continued to excite the Astonishment of all who behold it. When offered to the notice of Observers as a pure creation of Nature, this object is found to put the belief of many to a severe test; so difficult it is to come to a conclusion that it is not the result of Art.

This singular formation, entitled (die Vorhang) the Hanging Curtain is about 12 feet long, & varies in width from 2 to 4 feet, projecting, or rather hanging from one of the rocky sides of the Cavern towards the ground, precisely in the same manner as a Curtain of Stuff or Silk would hang sloping in folds from the side of a Window or Above. It varies from half an Inch to an Inch in thickness; is graceful in form, & its folds are numerous, full, & well spread. No Curtain or piece of Tapestry could be arranged in a more easy & flowing manner, or from the breadth & disposition

of its varied folds, present to the Eye a more pleasing development of Light & Shade. To complete what may in this Object, be termed the mimicry of Art; it is ornamented by Nature's own hand with a striped border, $4\frac{1}{2}$ Inches in breadth, near the extremity of its edge, precisely as it would be on a piece of Drapery intended to decorate a Chamber or Window. This Border consists of two lines perfectly parallel to each other, running along the whole length of the edge or extremity of the Curtain, quite as regular & even as if sewn on to the piece by the human hand.

These Stripes are of a reddish brown Colour, & give a rich finish to this Mass of Concretion, which is of a pure transparent White tint throughout, brilliant & sparkling. The folds are both undulating & perpendicular in form.

The Curtain is decidedly the greatest Curiosity to be found in these Caverns. The effect produced by its appearance & general Character is not easily conveyed to the Mind by a description. As an extraordinary production of Nature it must be seen, in order to be duly appreciated. ^(1.)

Opposite to the Vorhang are various large Effusions or Corings from the Crevices & divisions of the Cliff, which in the course of time have become petrifications, & are attached to the sides of the grey Rock. These, owing to their singular forms & colour, have received various Names, such as (die Huhnersteige) the Hen Coop, & (das Strohdach) the Thatched Roof.

(1.)

See Appendix at Page 48, Note M.

Proceeding further onwards after leaving the Vorhang, the Visitor passes along a Hall or Avenue 40 feet in height, till he arrives at what is termed (der zweiten Wasserfall) the Second Waterfall; from thence to the so termed (freihängenden Türkensäbel) the Great hanging Turkish Sabre, till at length he arrives at a well constructed raised Causeway, which leads directly to a Side Cavern.

The direction this Side Cavern takes is towards the SE. but beyond the distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ Yards it bears due E.

Its dimensions are on a very contracted scale, yet the Concretions found in it are beautifully brilliant & pure in tint. The basement or foundation is however, dusky in colour, mixed with dull red & grey tints. In some parts the foundation having become petrified, is firm & sound enough to admit walking over it without inconvenience; in other parts, the soil is soft in consistence, & will be found wet & muddy. Here are to be seen beds of white calcareous Matter depositing themselves upon Masses of dark grey drip-stone, forming an admixture of layers of both Colours, owing to the continuous & copious dripping going on from the sides & roof of this Cavern. ^(1.)

After a further distance of about 310 feet, this Cavern begins to contract its dimensions considerably, till at length it becomes in fact, a mere continuous opening or passage, not more than from 3 to 2 feet in height. As the

(1.) At the Commencement of this Cavern is the Fischplatz, see annexed Plate; for a Description of this Object, see Appendix at page 48, Note 11.

Objects found in this part possess very slight interest either in a Scientific or picturesque point of view, & the various passages are both narrow damp & muddy, & consequently not conveniently accessible; it must be left to the choice of the Visitor, whether he will prosecute any further research in this direction. Should he be of a scientific turn, & on that account feel inclined to persevere, he may be assured, little will be found to repay the trouble & inconvenience attending a further exploration.

Returning towards the principal Line of Caverns, & proceeding along a made pathway for a distance of about 248 feet further on, the Visitor is conducted through a lofty rocky passage or Avenue leading into another Side Grotto or Cavern, the Entrance to which is closed by an Iron grated Door, & is known by the name of the Archduke John's Cavern, a full description of which will be given further on.

From this point the Visitor ^{proceeds} on a constructed pathway to a Cavern or Hall 149 feet in height, in which two large Columnar Masses of fluted Stalactite formation are found; one being 25, & the other $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, & 93 feet in height, of a most brilliant white tint; continuing along the same pathway for some distance further, he passes through a lofty Area or Space 186 feet wide, arriving at the formation termed (die Landkarte) the Map. Beyond this point, & by keeping always in the same track, the Visitor's attention will

Taf. IV



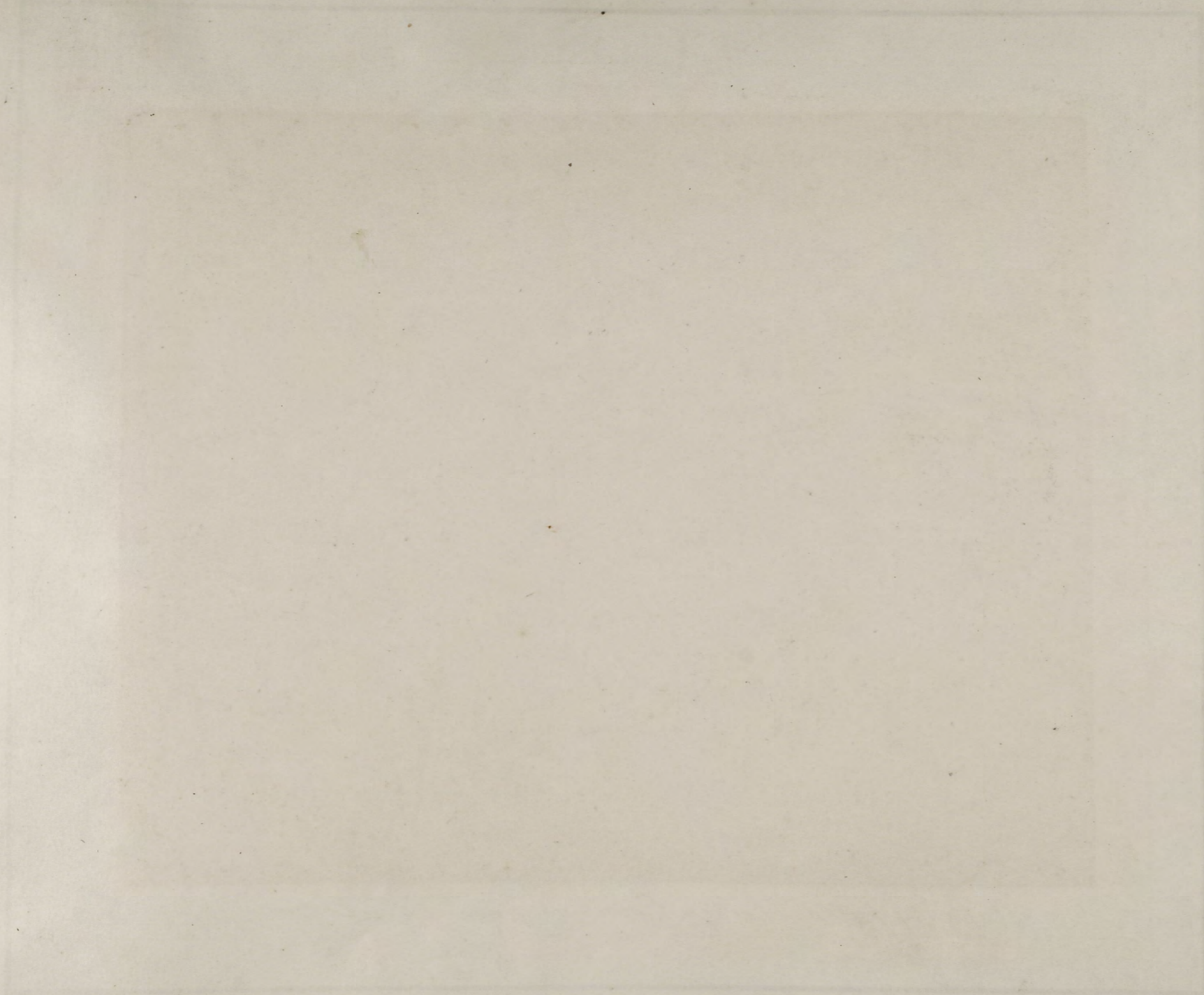
Adelsberger Grotte.
Der Fischplatz mit dem grossen Wasserschalle.

A remarkable Stalactite Formation originally called the Great Cataract, but now most generally known by the name of The Fish Place.

30v



✓





*Ansicht des Säulensturzes bei dem sogenannten beschwerlichen Durchgange.
725 W. Riffe vom Eingange.*

Masses of fallen & broken Columns found in the Difficult Passage.

be drawn to a series of rocky precipitous Walls on his right hand, of a greyish white, interspersed with layers or fragments of rock piled upon each other; while on his left, will be found a very interesting collection of Dripstone Concretions, under which, a pillar-shaped Mass of white Stalactite may be observed becoming gradually cased over with a red calcareous deposit, the result of a continued dripping from the rocky roof above. At this point the Road branches off in two different directions.

On one side, leading from hence, a raised Causeway furnished with Railings has been constructed by the Conservator of the Caverns to render Access both commodious & safe; proceeding along which, after some distance the Visitor obtains on his right, a view of what is termed (*der beschwerlicher durchgang*) the difficult passage or thoroughfare, which is situated at the distance of 1478 Yards from the Main Entrance.

On the other side, the Visitor leaving the abovementioned raised Causeway on his left, may proceed along the precipitous Sides & among declivities of surrounding Stalactite formations, layers of impending Cliffs & rocky projections, till he arrives at the very contracted Spot or point which owing to the intricacy of its course, & the difficulty of Access through its various windings, has procured for it the above title of the *Difficult Passage*.

On arriving at the Cavern found here,

which rises to the height of 40 feet, & with which the above passage is connected; the Visitor on his first introduction will be much struck with the novelty as well as the imposing character of the view presented to him, partially illuminated as it can only be, yet which circumstance however, gives a wider scope to fancy to exert its influence, as it contributes to develop most strikingly the singular outlines of the surrounding Objects, enshrouding them in a fitful gloom, & producing a character of undefinable grandeur. He can hardly gaze upon the general ruggedness & massiveness of the place without emotions of dread & horror; while directing his view upwards, he experiences an involuntary shudder at finding himself surrounded by immense Columnar Masses of Stalactite, & bold projections of craggy Rock impending over him, which viewed through the flickering glare of the torches, appear on the point of precipitating themselves downwards upon his devoted head, & burying all beneath in their ruins. ^(1.)

The approach to the entrance of this Cavern is occasionally rendered inconvenient by collections of Water, which falling from the upper parts of the Cavern form small pools here & there, on both sides. A narrow opening about 5 ft. 4 inches wide & 4 ft. high, leads from the Cavern to the dreadinspiring yet highly interesting, difficult passage; the further end of which, connects with the railed Causeway

(1.) The Confusion & Ruin here so apparent are the result of Earthquakes, which are very frequent in Carniola.

previously mentioned, which is carried round one side of the "difficult passage".

In the Cavern with which this passage is connected, the Visitor will discover a made pathway, continuing upon which, his attention will be attracted by a succession of beautifully coloured Stalactite formations which display themselves on each side of him, together with blocks & Masses of the same Concretion scattered in his path, all possessing interest from the singularity & picturesque character of either their forms or position; till at length, he perceives extending across his path, a Series of Pillars or Columns, through which he proceeds into a lofty Cavernous Hall, as it may be termed, about 50 feet in height, the Area of which is even & well proportioned in every part, forming both a lofty & spacious Interior.

This Hall is termed the approach or entrance to (der Calvarienberg) or Mount Calvary, & is situated at the distance of 1 Engl. Mile & 255 Yards from the Main Entrance to the Caverns.

A

DESCRIPTION

of the

END PORTION of this

BRANCH of the CAVERNS.

THOSE who do not find the Exploration of these Caverns thus far, productive of too much fatigue, & are desirous of accomplishing a complete Inspection of their interesting Contents, may at this point (which is the Entrance to the Calvarienberg, of which a particular description will be subjoined; - strike into a newly opened Way on the lefthandside, made by the Conservators of the Caverns which will lead towards the Stalactite formations among which the so called form of St. Stephan is situated.

In the extensive & lofty Cavernous Hall now presented to the View, & which of itself, from the magnitude of its dimensions, is a surprising Object; are to be found a variety of Stalactite formations, in point of form, dimensions & admixture of Colours, highly worthy of examination. The Scale of proportion, as also

the Singularity of their position, together with the circumstances under which they are displayed to the Spectator, cannot fail of producing feelings of surprise & a high degree of Interest on the mind of even the most superficial Observer.

The Stalactite formations found here, apparently the result of many Centuries, rise in lofty & towering Masses amid huge piles of massy Rock & beetling Cliff forming the the rugged Sides of the Cavern. Confusely piled upon each other, & towering aloft, a Curious Combination of Objects is thus formed upon a gigantic Scale, & among these will be found one Mass, distinguished from the others by which it is surrounded, by a Stalactite Concretion of smaller size, rising from the middle of its upper surface, & flanked on each side by a pyramidal Concretion which has somewhat the appearance of a Side Tower. One of these, said to bear a strong resemblance to one of the side towers of St. Stephan in Vienna, at the discovery of this portion of the Caverns, was called (der Bust St. Stephan) the Likeness of St. Stephan, & which appellation it has retained ever since. (1)

The pathway now continues through the dreary & awe inspiring Precincts of these lofty rocky Vaults, over fragments of Rock & Masses of Concretion, scattered in all directions.

The various forms of the rocky Masses in this place, together with the width & height of the general outlines of the Vault, & the dim obscurity through which the Eye is compelled to trace them; tend to

(1) This is an Erroneous Translation. The Mass of Stalactite is said to resemble in form, "the Bust of Saint Stephan." The proto Martyr & Patron Saint of the Viennese, is meant, & not the Cathedral of Vienna. The Church of Adelsberg is dedicated to St. Stephan, & probably some traditional Bust or picture of this Saint, well known in this part of Austria, has suggested the resemblance.

produce feelings of gloomy horror on the mind of the Spectator while tracing his Course through the Mazes & Windings of these subterranean Regions. The Path in parts broken & uneven, & occasionally unpleasant from the soft & muddy surface of the Soil, lies between & among huge blocks & concretions pendant from the upper sides & roof of the Cavern, & also rising from its base in masses reaching high up towards the Roof.

Though fatiguing & occasionally troublesome to preserve the proper track, yet the passageway is not dangerous, & has been laid down so carefully by the Conservators of the Caverns, that the curious & scientific Observer, without risk of exposing himself to danger, may here fully gratify his inclination to examine in detail the various formations & concretions of stalactite & dripstone with which this lofty & spacious Cavern is abundantly furnished, many of which are very beautiful, & merit examination.

The way from hence leads the Visitor through numerous windings interspersed with various & frequent irregularities of surface. The massy piles of Rock here appear as if they had been thrown upon & near each other by some violent projection or dislodgement of Nature, similar to that of an Earthquake.

Over these the Visitor must prepare to shape his course by the most accessible track he can discover, a constructed pathway at this point, not being practicable. Further progress

onwards must be made by climbing over the surfaces of the rugged Masses scattered around, untill after proceeding for some distance in this direction, he arrives at a lofty open Space leading directly to an Elevation or Height termed the Loibelberg, upon which is found the figure called (der Eremit) the Hermit.

This is an isolated Mass of Stalactite about $6\frac{3}{4}$ feet in height, of a dull reddish colour, & from its being the solitary tenant of the spot, & also its fancied resemblance to the above mentioned object, it has received its name.

At this point the Visitor will perhaps pause to devote some moments to an inspection of the spacious Area or Hall in which he finds himself buried: its curiously pendant Roof, — the Curvature of the upper part of its rocky Sides, with their numerous projections, recesses & crevices, all much diversified in form & character, — will successively claim his Attention as highly interesting Objects; while the gloomy & everreigning Silence in which every thing seems destined to dwell, is occasionally broken by the dull heavy Sounds of the Water drops falling from the Roof & upper Sides of the Cavern on the encrusted Floor beneath.

These at length serve to rouse him from the state of mute Astonishment with which he has hitherto been gazing through the dim obscure upon Objects so varied & so singular in form & character, impelling him as it were, to continue his progress yet further onwards in search of forms haply more picturesque, &

of Scenes of still higher interest.

The Visitor leaving this Spot, proceeds along a beaten track which after some short distance conducts him to a Side Cavern well deserving of inspection, which by means of a newly constructed opening, has been made to connect itself with the Side Cavern previously described, in which the formation termed (das Grab) or the Tomb, is situated.

This Opening has been undertaken for the purpose of connecting at each end this Side Branch with the main trunk line of the Caverns, with which it now communicates without interruption in its Course, a pathway having also been laid down throughout. The Journey to the Calvarienberg is thus rendered more interesting by presenting two distinct Roads by which it may be made; — one of which may be taken by what is termed the Köhnprinz & Ferdinand's Cavern, which bears away to the right hand, at the point termed des Grab; while on returning, the direction of the now united two Side Caverns as above referred to, may be followed, the particulars of which are now described. (A reference to the plan of the Caverns will render this deviation of Roads more intelligible to the Visitor who penetrates as far as the End portion of the Caverns. ⁽¹⁾)

Without entering into further detail respecting the interesting & surprising formations & variously tinted Concretions found in these united Side Caverns, which will

(1) See Appendix at Page 48, Note O.

[Faint, illegible handwriting within a rectangular border]



Verz. Alois Schaffmayer, k. k. Reichs-Ing.

Sculp. August Chmel in Laibach.

*Ansicht des Tropfbrunnens
1250 W.Kff. vom Eingange.*

View of the Dropping Well.

not fail to attract his attention during his progress through them, we will at once conduct the Visitor back to that point of his Course where he first entered this Side Cavern, at which is situated what is termed (der Pforte des Calvarienbergs) the Entrance to Mount Calvary; & here the Observer of Nature will have his attention attracted by the sounds of trickling drops & the splashing of Water, to direct his Steps towards the path which leads to the interesting (Tropfbrunnen) Dropping Well, which is well worthy of his inspection.

A rugged trackway conducts the Visitor to this Spot over a loose Soil or debris of a glittering dark grey Colour, surrounded by Walls of dripping rock, & huge fragments of Concretion scattered in every direction; through Clefts & Hollows, & along passages between the Rocks; all of which, from their ruggedness & intricacy of situation, render his Course rather troublesome & laborious; but on a near approach, the View of the Dropping Well will be found well deserving the trouble experienced in reaching it.

Its form is that of a truncated Cone, richly bedecked with masses of sparkling Stalactite of a reddish white Colour.

The base of this Cone extends outwards considerably on all sides, & is on the right hand side, & close adjoining thereto, under Water. Its upper

Surface is formed in the shape of a basin or receiver, about 1 foot 4 inches in breadth.

This Cone stands in a somewhat narrow but lofty recess or Chamber in which is seen a delicately small Stream of Water threadlike in form, falling uninterruptedly from the rocky Ceiling above, from a height of 80 feet into the Basin beneath, over the edges of which the Water flows trickling downwards in its course, falling in drops into the pool of Water collected at the base of the Cone, which is kept continually supplied from this source, at the same time it is gradually augmented & extended by the deposition formed around it.

It is a surprising fact, that from the appointment of the Editor of this Guide to the superintendance & Inspection of these Caverns, when his attention was first called to the appearance of this Cone, to the present time, which is a period of 13 Years; — he has not observed any sensible increase in the size of the Cone, but during that time however, its Colour has changed from a clear bright White to Red: the Set of descending Water in the course of that long period of time has not shifted from its place, but has continued to flow without interruption, & without any diminution of its Volume.

The Scientific Observer may occupy his time

Attention agreeably in this Cavern with an inspection of its Stalactite formations, the shapes & hues of Colour they here assume, all of which will be found both curious and interesting; & in all probability he will then feel inclined to enjoy the pleasure of quenching his thirst at the perennial Spring above described, which here seems as it were, to court his attention: upon trial its Water will be found both wholesome & refreshing, & pleasing to the taste.

On quitting this Cavern, the Visitor will not fail to continue his investigation in this direction as far as it is accessible; the most interesting Objects to be found here are, on the left hand side, the (Bassin) or Reservoir; & on the right hand, an Avenue leading to the extremity of the Caverns at this point, termed (der Tartarus) the Region of Tartarus.

The Road from the Tropfbunnen Cavern leads past two very extraordinary Masses of Stalagmite of a dome shaped vaulted form, projecting forwards considerably, in which may be seen the white calcareous deposit encrusting over the masses of Red Concretion which protrude boldly from the sides of the rock. At this point will be observed a Side passage or Avenue, which is however, difficult of access, blocked up as it is with mingled masses of Stalactite & Rock loosely heaped together.

Taking the lefthand side & proceeding over a bottom or foundation composed of Masses of Lock & Stumps of petrified Concretions broken, uneven & precipitous, the main passage will be found gradually to decrease both in width & height, & the footway along it becomes less distinct & convenient to retain; the foundation here being wet, muddy, & slippery, & consequently for some distance, more difficult to pursue.

Proceeding in the best manner he is able along such an uneven & uncomfortable track, & passing on his way several pendant Petrifications of a brown & grey Colour, the Visitor at length reaches a Spot that was on its discovery termed (der Bassin) the Reservoir; beyond which, up to the present period, no further Outlet in any direction, appears to exist. The form of this Reservoir is funnel or crater shaped.

Its width, reckoned across its surface from the near Edge to its furthest side, to which however no Access has yet been obtained, — is calculated to be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet, & its depth about 31 feet. The sides of this funnel shaped Basin are encrusted with a chrySTALLIZED Concretion resembling Ice; very frequently in wet weather the Contents of this Basin are so much increased by the fall of Water into it from the upper parts of the Cavern, that it overflows, discharging its superfluity along the passages of the Caverns as far as the

Dropping Well.

Leaving the above Object, the Visitor now pursues his course along the passage on his right hand side.

This from its very original & peculiar features, is highly calculated to impress his mind with feelings of mingled astonishment & awe, owing to its wild & rugged, yet picturesque Character.

A description that would convey a correct Impression of the strange uncouth forms & general Appearance of this portion of the Caverns, shrouded as they are in continual Gloom but partially dispelled by the artificial Light under which they are viewed; — is very difficult to be given.

The Masses of Rock which compose the sides & vaulted Roof of this portion of the Caverns, present the most striking irregularities in form & arrangement, while its Area or Base offers alternations of depths, hollows, & precipitous Slopes in all parts, presenting forms & proportions susceptible of endless variations to the Eye & Mind of the Spectator while under the influence of an excited imagination, which will here be most powerfully appealed to, by all the surrounding Objects.

In the precincts of this cavernous Hall are to be found but few Stalactite formations. That pleasing variety which has rendered the inspection of the various

Halls & Caverns previously visited, so delightful & so interesting, here no longer exists. All is harsh, rugged, & barren. Nature here seems to have withheld her magical plastic power in order to inspire the Beholder with contrary Emotions by presenting outlines of Form & Shape calculated to produce Terror & Dread, & by an absence of fanciful details to produce the strongest possible Contrast to all she has previously scattered in every part with such a liberal hand. Struck with the sudden change now developing itself in the character of the surrounding Scenery, the curious & excited Observer, after pausing awhile to form some distinct ideas of the strange Abyss in which he appears entombing himself, will venture onwards if he be desirous of a fuller View of the ⁽¹⁾ Malebolge he has reached, strug-

(1) "Luogo è in Inferno, detto Malebolge, "There is a place within the depths of Hell
 "Tutto di pietra e di Color ferrigno, "Call'd Malebolge, all of Rock dark stain'd
 "Come la Cerchia che d'intorno il volge. "With hue ferruginous, e'en as the Steep
 "Nel dritto mezzo del Campo maligno, "That round it circling winds, ^{Right in} ^{the midst}
 "Vaneggia un pozzo assai largo e profondo, "Of that abominable region yawns
 "Di cui suo luogo conterò l'ordigno. "A spacious Gulph profound, ^{whereof} ^{the flame}
 "Quel cinghio che rimane adunque è tondo "Due time shall tell. The circle that ^{remains}
 "Fra 'l pozzo e 'l pie dell'alta ripa dura, "Throughout its round, between the gulph ^{& base}
 "E ha distinto in dieci Valli il fondo. "Of the high craggy banks, successive ^{forms}
 DANTE, Inferno, Canto 18. "Ten depths within its hollow bosom, ^{sunk}
 Adapted from Cary's Dante.

-gling patiently & cautiously over Masses of Earth & Rock piled confusedly together, which after traversing with labour & difficulty, will conduct him to a kind of Den or Cave termed the Tartarus.

Arrived at this point, the Visitor will find all the characteristics of the Scenery he has just passed through, combined & most strikingly developed; & his imagination will be at a loss to discover a more appropriate name than that of the poetic Hell above mentioned, which has been bestowed on this portion of the Caverns.

In a few words; — the Tartarus is a dismal — bare — rugged — yawning Cave or Abyss, filled with water, & neither beyond it, nor on any of its sides, has any kind of opening or further access been hitherto discovered.

The distance from the Main entrance to the end of this Branch of the Adelsberg Caverns, (of which Tartarus is the extreme point) is calculated to be 2686 Yards, or 1 Mile & a half English measurement, following the main route, & exclusive of the side Caverns which diverge from it. —

DESCRIPTION of MOUNT CALVARY.

FROM the Dropping Well two passages, one bearing in a Northerly, & the other in a Westerly direction, shape their Course. These are both well constructed, affording convenient Access, & terminate at a wide open Avenue leading to the furthest extremity of the Caverns, in which (der Calvarienberg) or Elevation in the shape of a Mountain & entitled Mount Calvary, is situated.

At the commencement of this Avenue or Main track the form which the Rock takes on each side, much resembles a Gate, or chief Entrance, & is known by the name of (die pforte zum Calvarienberg) the Portal leading to Mount Calvary. This Object

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

WATER



Print. Metz. Schaffnerath & K. Paris. In 2.

Sculp. H. Louis. Charles. Lebas.

Ansicht des Thores zum sogenannten Calvarienberge.

925 W. 1/2 St. vom Eingange.

The Gate of Mount Calvary.





Des. Anton Schaffner - sculp. J. G. Schlegel

sculp. M. Christian Zeller

Ansicht der 2. Höhe des sogenannten Calvarienberges.

1055 W.Hft. vom Eingange.

View of the second Elevation of Mount Calvary.

is very deserving of notice from the two lofty arched Columns or piles of Stalactite, one on each side, found here; together with rows of others of a smaller size resembling Shafts of Columns of a sparkling red & white hue: these, together with the bold & loftily projected Vaulting of these formations, resembling Gothic Arches, will be found very interesting Objects.

The Pathway commencing from this point is wide enough to admit two or three persons abreast, & continues by a very considerable ascent in a northwardly direction. It is easy of access & is provided with halting places, so that the Visitor may proceed onwards without fatigue till he arrives at what is termed the (erste Höhe) the first Elevation or Range of the Mount.

Here he finds himself introduced into a lofty spacious Enclosure or Hall, surrounded by colossal Masses of Rock & Stalactite formations profusely heaped in all directions in a variety of shapes both curious & beautiful, bedecked with brilliant tints of colour, among which, various shades of grey, black & white, predominate. The rich & interesting Prospect to which he is so unexpectedly introduced can hardly fail of exciting the Visitor's admiration & wonder.

From hence, after pausing awhile to contemplate the interesting Objects thus disclosed to his view, the Visitor continues his Course by a pathway leading to a more

lofty Ascent or Range, in the way towards which, his attention will be attracted on one side, by the magnificent Stalactite formations found in this part, abounding in brilliant & variously tinted incrustations of Colour & developement of form; — while on the other side his attention will be claimed by the huge projecting Masses of Rock & incrustations of black Stalactite formation, ^{from which} the growth of many Centuries, — spring up Columnar Masses of petrification of a brilliant white hue, several of which, measuring 10 feet in height, & 6 ft. 8 in. in diameter, take a vertical direction & tower aloft, ranged around this lofty & widely extended Vault.

While contemplating in silent astonishment these wonders of Nature's creative power, the Visitor finds he has arrived at the point termed the second Elevation, (Zweite Höhe) or Range of the Mount. ^(1.)

The pathway leading onwards will be found both good & well constructed, & the Visitor proceeds towards the upper Range of the Mount by a varied & circuitous Course.

The difficulties of the pathway here have been surmounted by the adoption of every possible means to render the approach to the higher Region of the Mount as accessible as the nature of the Situation would permit: — the Steep & precipitous Slopes are provided with Hand Rails to facil-

(1.) Considered as the most interesting portion of the Mount. Dr. Schmidt found several huge columnar Masses here, some of a lofty pyramidal shape, called the Duomo of Milan; — See Plate.

itate a descent safely; — in those parts where the Ascent is bold & steep, Steps have been cut in the Rock & halting places constructed in order to allow Visitors to ascend leisurely & safely, & at the same time to enable Scientific Observers to inspect without fatigue or danger the various interesting formations & the general Character of the surrounding Objects.

The Visitor proceeds through a succession of the most beautiful columnar Masses of sparkling white Stalactite, forming a kind of pillared Avenue, leading to the most elevated portion of the Mount, termed (die dritten Höhe) or the *third Elevation*. This point which may be termed the summit of the Mount, is canopied over by the lofty Vaulting of the spacious cavernous Hall, the area of which is entirely filled by the Calvarien Berg. The height of the top of the Mount measured from the ground level of the portal, from which point in fact, from its very gradual elevation, the Mount may be said to commence; is 256 feet, & its distance from the main entrance of the Caverns is 2216 Yards, or $1\frac{1}{4}$ Mile English measurement.

On the day of the Festival annually held in these Caverns, this spacious Vault with its gigantic Stalactite formations present a curious &

extraordinary Spectacle; being decorated with a profusion of Lights very artistically arranged so as to produce a most striking effect, & set off its highly diversified contents to the greatest advantage.

The View from the top of the Mount over the surrounding Objects illuminated as they are on this occasion at such points as serve to bring out their forms in the most striking & picturesque manner, together with the general brilliancy & powerful reflection produced by the tone of Colour pervading the various formations with which this Cavern is furnished, are beyond description astonishing, & to be felt, must be seen; language however powerful, being incapable of doing justice to the Effect of such an extraordinary Spectacle.

A similar difficulty exists of conveying clearly by description the Impressions that will be produced on the Mind of the Spectator by this Cavern & its extraordinary Contents when viewed under its ordinary Circumstances.

When visited on the occasion of the festival, its general effect seems that of a sudden Creation by Magic; —

(1) If the awful Chasms of dark masses of Rock surrounding us, appear like the work of demons who might be imagined to have risen from the Centre of the Earth, the beautiful Works of Nature above our heads may be compared to a





W. H. W. del. sculp.

J. W. del.

Adelsberger Grotte
Calvarienberg: Mailänder Dom.

*View of the Upper portion of Mount Calvary commonly called
the Duomo of Milan.*



Del. A. Schaffner del. & R. Kn. Sculp.

M. Cassel del. & L. Sch. Sculp.

*Ansicht der höchsten Spitze des sogenannten Calvarienberges.
1000 W. Rüst. vom Eingange.*

View of the Summit of Mount Calvary.



when deprived of the great power of light introduced at that time, the dim Obscurity through which the Eye is then obliged to penetrate, "shadowy setting off the face of things," bestows an unnatural & monstrous Grandeur & indefinite Extent upon every thing around; the Mind of the Spectator becomes filled with Astonishment & even a degree of Awe, at contemplating the strange & apparently incomprehensible World thus dimly set forth before him, the Creation of which, together with its forms & arrangement, appearing to be so unaccountable. The gigantic sides of the Cavern ex-
Scenic Representation of a Temple or Banquet Hall for fairies or genii
 such as those fabled in the Arabian Romances..... A poet might certainly place here the palace of the King of the Gnomes, & might find marks of his Creative power in the small Lake close by, on which the flame of the torch is now falling. (see below.)

(2) It is the general Vice of philosophical Systems that they are usually founded upon a few facts, which they well explain, yet are extended by the human fancy to all the phenomena of Nature, to many of which they must be contradictory. The human intellectual powers are so feeble that they can with difficulty embrace a single series of phenomena, & they consequently must fail when extended to the whole of Nature. There are in fact, **NO** Accidents in Nature; what we call Accidents are the results of general Laws in particular operation, but we cannot deduce these laws from the particular Operation, or the general Order from the partial Result.

Note 2. Davy's Consolations in Travel, Dialogues 384.

tending upwards in lofty Vaultings to the height of 72 feet, some of which project a Span of 400 feet, together with the imposing mass of the Mount filling up the area of this space; appear any thing but what they really are, — the result of fortuitous Combinations of Particles produced by a given Law of Nature operating slowly yet unerringly through periods of time to determine which, baffles all Calculation.

All these Objects strongly attest the wonderful power of Nature to operate by means, & through agencies fully to understand & unravel which, sets all human Comprehension at defiance. (2)

Such is an outline of the impressions with which the Visitor cannot fail to be affected on leaving this Cavern, which may very appropriately be termed a vast Stage on which Nature has chosen to display some of her choicest wonders of creative power by means & elements though simple in themselves, yet peculiar to & manageable by, her mighty Agency alone.

The design of the preceding description having been to call the attention of the Visitor to the principal Objects & most striking portions of this End-Branch of the Caverns, as also to trace out as clearly as the subject will admit, the direction he should follow in his investigation & progress through these subterranean Regions; it may be as well before terminating this description of Mount Calvary, not to omit taking

some notice of the two Side Branches which proceed from the Cavern in which the Mount is situated. The one bears in a Northwardly, & the other in a Southwardly direction.

Owing to the ruggedness of the Cliffs and Masses of Rock with which they are lined, as well as the irregularity of their level, no practicable pathway has been constructed along either of these side branches. On investigation they appear to slope downwards very considerably, & at last terminate in pits or Caves filled with water.

There is also a Side Avenue leading from the third Elevation of the Mount by a declivous and winding Course terminating at the point where the formation called St. Stephan, stands, but this, owing to the Causes already mentioned, is also not capable of being rendered conveniently accessible. From these circumstances any attempts on the part of Strangers to explore these passages might be attended with great inconvenience & even danger, & those Visitors whose Curiosity or spirit of Research might induce them to penetrate these recesses, are recommended by no means to make the attempt.

DESCRIPTION

of the

Adelsberg Caverns

Cavern.

OF all the Caverns diverging from the Main trunk Line most distinguished by the richness & variety of its Stalactite formations, that which we are about to describe, is one deserving the most particular Attention.

In no other part throughout the whole range of the Adelsberg Caverns can the various forms of Crystallization & deposition both in the upper & lower parts & along the sides of the various Halls & passages, be found in such variety of forms & positions, in such perfect Condition, or so easily accessible for inspection, as in this Cavern.

In no other part is so favorable an opportunity afforded the scientific Visitor of observing the process of

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CLASSICAL STUDIES

1910



L. Gruner del.

The Proteus anguinus.

the gradual formation of its contents, as also of the extended development of their parts & the principle of self-arrangement constantly going on, as may be found here.

For these reasons this Branch Cavern has most appropriately been distinguished by bearing the name of that illustrious Individual & warm Patron & Admirer of all branches of Natural Philosophy, the Archduke John, who explored the whole of these Caverns in the Year 1832.

The Approach to this highly interesting Side Cavern lies in a northerly direction, commencing at a short distance from the previously described hanging Curtain, (der Vorhang.)

The Entrance is situated at about 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards from this Spot, & from the Main entrance to the Caverns, about 1498 Yards, or nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an English Mile. It is protected by an Iron grated door, in order to preserve its highly picturesque & interesting Contents from casual injury or damage by the carelessness of promiscuous Visitors. The Key is always kept by the Chief Commissioner of the district to whom the Care & preservation of these Caverns is entrusted, but it may always be obtained on special application by Strangers or travellers of respectability for permission to view the interior.

A low narrow passage leads into a small Hall or Cave, the contents of which demand

the most particular observation, I will amply repay minute inspection*. Among other curious Objects to be met with in this Cavern, are to be seen preserved in a Cistern of water, several Specimens of that nondescript fish, or reptile, called the Proteus⁽¹⁾, which have been taken out of the Magdalens Cave (see page 5) in a small Lake of which, they are usually found, & brought here for more secure preservation, as also for the special observation of Naturalists & others, to whom, both on account of its singular Characteristics, as well as its not being met with else where, this Nondescript is an Object of great Interest.⁽²⁾

(1.) The Proteus anguinus is an Animal which at first view, you might suppose to be a Lizard, but it has the motions of a Fish. Its head & the lower part of its body & its tail, bear a strong resemblance to those of the Eel; but it has no fins; & its curious branchial organs are not like the gills of fishes; they form a singular vascular structure, as you see, almost like a Crest, round the throat, which may be removed without occasioning the death of the Animal, who is likewise furnished with lungs. With this double Apparatus for supplying Air to the blood, it can live either below or above the surface of the Water. Its fore feet resemble hands, but they have only three claws or fingers, & are too feeble to be of

* See Plate at Page 32; for a Description of which,
see Appendix at Page 48, Note p.
(2.) See ditto v. v. q.

On all sides, both depending from the Roof, & springing up from the Floor of the Cavern, also projecting from its sides in every direction, will be found Stalactite Concretions of the greatest variety & beauty both of Form & Colour; of the latter, white, tinted with pale red, pure white, grey, & light blue, are the predominating Hues, set off by a clearness & sparkling

use in grasping or supporting the weight of the Animal. The hinder feet have only two claws or toes, & in the larger specimens are found so imperfect as to be almost obliterated. It has small points in place of eyes, as if to preserve the Analogy of Nature. It is of a fleshy whiteness & transparency in its natural state, but when exposed to the light, its skin gradually becomes darker, & at last gains an olive tint. Its nasal organs appear large, & it is abundantly furnished with teeth, from which it may be concluded, that it is an Animal of prey, yet in its confined state, it has never been known to eat, & it has been kept alive for many Years by occasionally changing the Water in which it was placed.

They were first discovered in the Magdalen's Cave by the late Baron Zois; but they have since been found, though rarely, at Sittich, about 30 Miles distant, near Laibach, thrown up by Water from a subterraneous Cavity, & I have lately heard it reported that some individuals of the same Species have been recognised in the

brilliancy of surface, together with such a degree of transparency in the sheets & columns of the Concretions, as to give them the appearance of Chrystal glass, & on lights being introduced behind them, their surfaces appear wholly illuminated, & light is transmitted as strongly as through plates of Horn or Tale. The Roof of the Cave is crowded with ramified Spiculae & branching masses of pendant

calcareous strata in Sicily. I think it cannot be doubted that their natural residence is in an extensive deep subterranean Lake, from which in great floods they sometimes are forced through the crevices of the Rocks into this place where they are found; & it does not appear to me impossible, when the particular nature of the Country in which we are, is considered, that the same great Cavity may furnish the individuals which have been found at Adelsberg & at Sittich. **ETUB.** Is it not possible that this Animal may be the larva of some large unknown Animal inhabiting these limestone Cavities? Its feet are not in harmony with the rest of its organization, & were they removed, it would have all the characteristics of a Fish. **THE UNKNOWN.** - I cannot suppose that they are Larvæ. There is I believe, in Nature no instance of a transition by this species of metamorphosis from a more perfect to a less perfect Animal. This animal, I dare say, is much larger than we now see it, when mature in its native place; but its comparative Anatomy is exceedingly hostile to the idea that it is an Animal in a state of transition. It has been found of various Sizes,

Stalactites falling in the shape of wreaths & festoons, as if arranged by a magic Hand upon the tops of the clusters of columnar petrifications which spring from the floor of the Cavern, & tower upwards to meet & become enfolded by the pendant drapery abovementioned, which forms a kind of canopy to the Columns, the whole presenting a most curious & striking effect.

The Way now leads through a Passage from that of the thickness of a Quill, to that of the Thumb, but its form of Organs has always been the same. It is surely an Animal of a peculiar Species. And it adds one instance more to the number already known of the wonderful manner in which life is produced & perpetuated in every part of our Globe, even in places which seem the least suited to organised Existence. And the same infinite power & Wisdom which has fitted the Camel & the Ostrich for the deserts of Africa, the Swallow that secretes its own Nest for the Caves of Java, the Whale for the Polar Seas, & the Moose & white Bear for the Arctic Ice, has given the Proteus to the deep & dark subterraneous lakes of Myria; — an Animal to whom the presence of light is not essential, & who can live indifferently in Air & in Water, on the surface of the Rock, or in the depths of the Mud.

PHILAL: I was exceedingly anxious to see the Proteus, & came here with the Guide in the evening of the day I arrived at Adelsberg, but though we examined the bottom of the Cave with the greatest care, we could find no Specimens. We returned the next morning, & were more for-

alternately narrow & wide, between Walls glittering with chrySTALLINE incrustations, & lined on each side with upspringing Stalactite Columns, & over Mounds & Mounds of recent deposition, to a somewhat more enlarged Hall, which is distinguished from the others by this peculiarity, that many of the Stalactite masses distributed about on the floor of this Cave are overlaid or encrusted with a shining black substance or coating, while others which terminate, for we discovered five close to the bank on the mud covering the bottom of the Lake; the Mud was smooth & perfectly undisturbed, & the Water quite clear. The fact of their appearance during the night seemed to me so extraordinary, that I could hardly avoid the fancy that they were new Creations. I saw no Cavities through which they could have entered, & the undisturbed state of the lake seemed to give weight to my notion, & this was not destroyed, when I heard from a celebrated Anatomist, to whom I had sent the Specimens I had collected, that the organization of the Spine of the Proteus was analagous to that of one of the Sauri, the remains of which are found in the older secondary Strata. It was said at this time, that no Organs of reproduction had been discovered in any of the Specimens examined by Physiologists, & this lent a weight to my opinion of the possibility of their being actually new Creations.

THE UNKNOWN. The problem of the reproduction of the Proteus, like that of the common Eel, is not yet solved; but ovaria have

spring from the same level present a most beautiful alabaster white colour, & the contrast thus produced from Objects similar in form, though differing so much in Colour, is both conspicuous & striking.

The Extent of this side Cavern beyond this point was but little known either to the Guides or the few curious & observant Visitors who had extended their investigations thus far; when the preparations that were made for the visit to the Caverns by the Archduke John in 1832, led to the discovery of a small lateral Cleft or opening, which on being followed

have been discovered in Animals of both species, & in this instance as in all others belonging to the existing order of things, Harvey's maxim of omne vivum ab Ovo, will apply.

EUB. You just now said that this Animal has been long an object of attention to you; have you studied it as a comparative Anatomist in search of the solution of its reproduction?

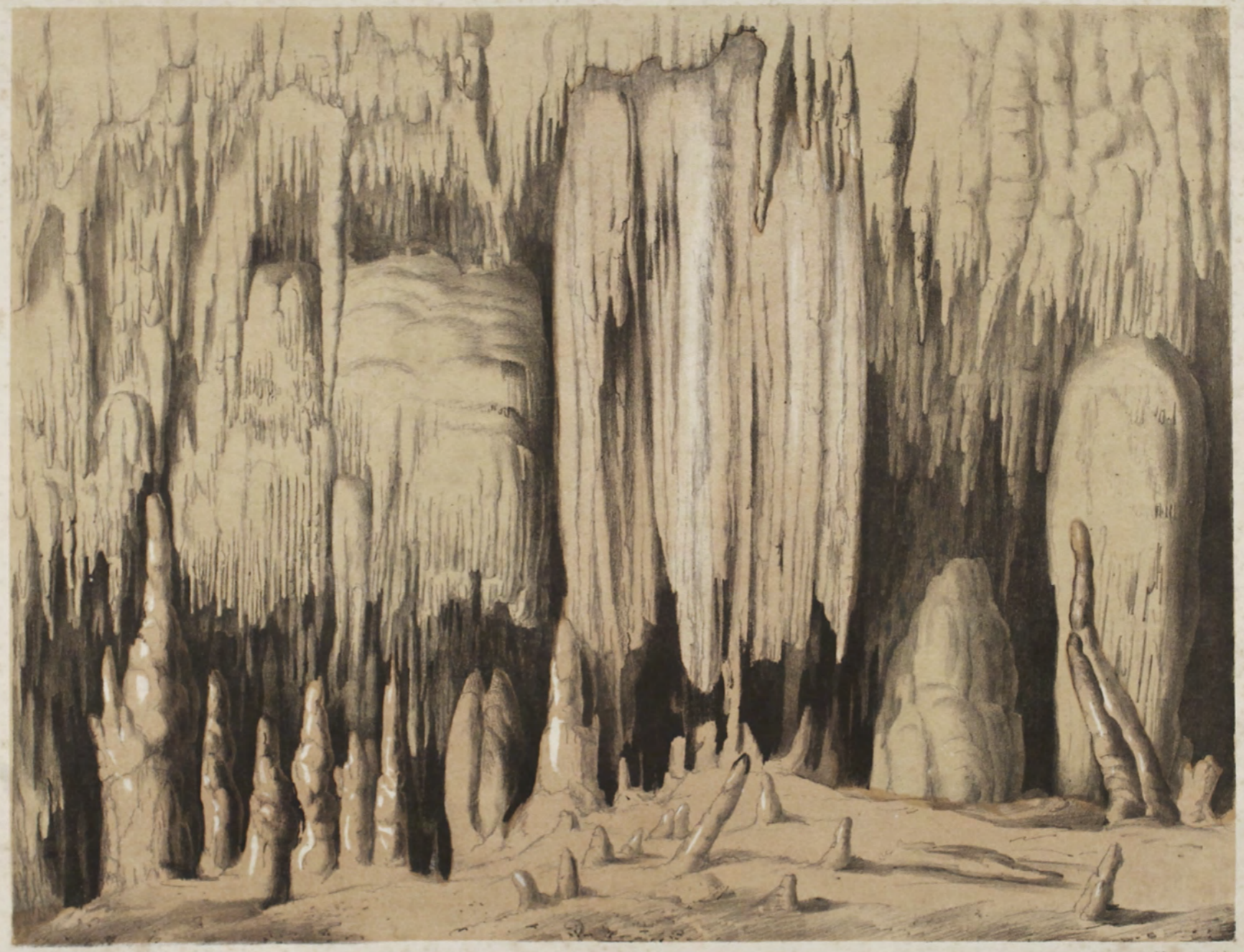
THE UNKNOWN. No; this enquiry has been pursued by much abler Investigators, by Schreiber & Conigliachi; my researches were made upon its inspiration & the changes occasioned in Water by its branchia; and they proved to me at least, that not merely the Oxygen dissolved in Water, but likewise a part of the Azote, was absorbed in the respiration of this Animal.

(Consolations in Travel, by Sir H. Davy,
Dialogue IV.)

up, & tunnelled through, disclosed a hollow passage or defile of about 3 feet in height, & 25 feet in length, which led into a splendid Cavern adorned with brilliant & sparkling Stalactite incrustations, the greatest part of a reddish colour. The Visitor will not omit to notice attentively the various & highly interesting groupes of Crystallizations found here, springing from the base of the Cavern in all directions in masses of red & white colour, & of highly diversified Shapes; as in no other part of these Caverns can more beautiful & delicate objects than these be met with, so accessible for minute inspection.

Through a small opening which even at present causes some difficulty to reach by requiring the Visitor to climb towards it, after which, he will have to grope his way as well as he is able, along a narrow passage, he at length arrives at the extreme End of this branch Cavern, which develops itself in the form of a lofty spacious Hall or Inclosure, in which are found numerous Columnar Masses of Stalactite & other formations, some standing upright, & others projecting downwards from the Roof & Sides of the Cavern. The most interesting Ornaments however, with which this Spot is so richly adorned, will be found to be the various Sheets of Stalactite Crystallization projecting from its sides & Roof in the form of draped Curtain Hangings,

Taf. VI.



W. H. Storer del.

Adelsberger Grotte
Erzherzog Johanns Grotte: die gotische Halle.

W. H. Storer del.

View of the Gothic Hall in the Archduke John's Cavern.

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of a delicate white hue, brilliant & sparkling, & adorned with from 8 to 10 Rows of Stripes of a red Colour in various shades, forming a border towards the Edges.^(1.)

From this Point, no communication with the main trunk Line of the Caverns is perceptible; nor indeed, does any seem practicable, & as such it appears an Offshoot, or main Limb of the principal Line previously described; it therefore only remains to recommend the Visitor after having gratified his curiosity with a full inspection of this Spot, one of the most interesting portions of the Adelsberg Caverns, to retrace his steps by the same track by which he came hither.

The repetition of the same Objects thus presented to his view, will however, prove an advantage to him rather than otherwise, while retracing his Steps through this Treasury of Crystallized formations; as, owing to the profusion in which they are collected here in one Spot by the hand of Nature, many may have escaped his notice when first penetrating the precincts of this interesting Cavern; at the same time it will serve to impress more fully upon his mind the great variety of forms so striking & apparently so artistic in Character, which a single inspection only, is unable to effect.

Thus by the most agreeable form

(1.) One of these is described by D. Schmid, under the name of the Kleinen Vorhang, see Appendix at Page 48, Note P.

of Retrospection, some of the most wonderful Operations of Nature as displayed in the formation & investiture of these Caverns will be more durably imprinted on his Recollection for the future; especially should he, as happens to the majority of Travellers & Foreigners who, attracted by their fame, come from afar to inspect these Caverns, — be not destined to visit them a second time*.

* Count von Hohenwart in his Work entitled "Wegweiser für die Wanderer in der Adelsberger Grotte", or Guide to the Traveller through the Adelsberg Caverns, strongly recommends the policy of giving the attendant Guides double the usual Gratuity in order that they may be induced to make the Journey back much slower than they are in the habit of doing; as having conducted Visitors as far into the Caverns as they are engaged to take them, they hasten back, supposing the Visitors curiosity gratified, in order to save their own time & their Lights, without stopping; frequently at the expence of the curious & inquisitive Observer who may wish to cast a "longing lingering look behind," at the extraordinary Objects & Scenes he is about to quit probably for ever. — By this plan observes he, more time may be obtained by the curious & scientific Observer to inspect leisurely the most interesting portions & striking objects with which every part of these Caverns is filled, from a point of View directly opposite to that by which he first approached them. As Visitors generally speaking, have few opportunities to pause & look back

upon the Objects left behind them during their progress onwards, the hasty Glances which they are compelled to take while passing on, prevent any powerful or lasting Impression being formed on the Memory. It will therefore be found a great recompense for the labour incurred, thus to devote an hour or two more to the examination of Objects of such a highly interesting character, in order to impress more fully & faithfully on the Visitor's mind, the Wonders of Nature met with in this hidden World. (Paleoterium)

{ Hohenwart's Wegweiser für eine
Wanderer in der Adelsb. Grotte: III Heft. }

DESCRIPTION

of that

Portion of the Caverns called the
Old Cavern of ADELSBERG,
and which
was visited from the 13.th to the 17.th Century.

THIS Branch of the Caverns diverges in a Northerly direction from the Main entrance, & is entered at a point near to what is termed the Second Station or Landing place, which leads by a stone Staircase on the left hand side, into the (grossen Dom) the great Dom, near the spot where the River Spitz enters the principal Cavern.

Though the Entrance to this branch of the Caverns is protected by a Railing, it has been very much contracted & rendered less accessible owing to the new Staircase that has been constructed at this point to facilitate the approach to the Great Dome.

The absence of any regularly constructed

Pathway along it, will also present much difficulty to the Visitor in his attempt to penetrate into its interior; while on a level with the entrance, he will find himself on the brink of a precipitous descent of at least 67 feet beneath him, forming a kind of Gulph, in the depths of which, far beneath & invisible to, the Visitor, the roar of the Stream will be heard violently rushing still downwards into the recesses of the Mountain.

Along a precarious & difficult footpath, or rather track 50 feet in length, & not more than 16 inches in breadth, must be pick his way, in passing along which, the greatest Caution & Steadiness must be observed, avoiding all haste or precipitancy, in order to escape the real danger that attends the attempt on the part of a Stranger to penetrate into this Cavern. This being premised, we will now proceed with the description of its Interior. —

At the Entrance, the dimensions of the Cavern will be found spacious & lofty; but on advancing farther within it, the Roof slopes considerably downwards in projecting Masses of pendant Rock, & a gradual contraction takes place both in width & height; this added to the great irregularity & ruggedness of the foundation blocked up as it is with fragments of Rock

& masses of Stalactite formation scattered every where about, render the passage through the Cavern difficult & fatiguing to follow; its height diminishing from 12 feet to about 6 ft 8 inches, & so continuing till its termination in a somewhat lofty & wider vaulted Hall in which is found a very beautiful Stalactite formation in appearance much resembling a Waterfall, as at a single glance the attentive Observer will not fail to perceive.

From hence the Visitor continuing onwards, will arrive at a point at which the sides of the Cavern seem to close upon him; & soon afterwards, owing to the continuous Water-dropping from above & percolating the sides of the Cavern, he will find his progress much impeded, & occasionally rendered rather unpleasant.

At this point he will discover at an ascent of about 8 feet above the floor of the Vault, a narrow opening of about 22 inches wide, but which varies very considerably, so as to admit of but one person to creep through it with difficulty; this affords access to a low damp Vault, full of Crags & Clefts.

From hence, by creeping onwards through an Opening which is found here, about 28 Inches wide, further access may be obtained and

continued through a succession of Clefts or Openings, all varying in height & width, rendering the passage through them occasionally both fatiguing & unpleasant; but in the course of which, the careful Observer will have his attention claimed by a variety of Stalactite formations pendant from, & Calcareous depositions encrusting over, the Sides & Roof of these Passages, till at length he arrives at a point where is found a formation called the Second Waterfall, similar in appearance to that he has previously seen, as above mentioned, but more interesting. From hence passing further onwards, along a narrow Passage, the rocky Walls on each side of him will be found interesting from their forms & position, appearing as if rudely piled or thrown upon each other by some violent Convulsion or Shock of Nature.

Further access is afforded by another low narrow Passage lined with a series of pendant Stalactite formations, the forms and proportions of which, however, cannot be said to possess any particularly striking Character.

Proceeding in this manner by a narrow winding descending Passage, varying in its dimen-

sions from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 22 Inches in height & width, and both rugged & inconvenient to pass through, the Visitor at length arrives at a Spot where his Curiosity will be excited by the appearance of a Mass of Stalactite formation known by the name of (*das verstopften Gerippe*) the Petrified Skeleton.

Narrow, damp, & low is the gloomy Vault in which the Visitor here finds himself as it were, buried. On casting a look through the surrounding obscurity, this narrow Cavity will be found crowded with masses of Stalactite Concretion, many of which, of a whitish grey & of a red colour, overhang the Skeleton, while layers of Calcareous deposit have settled upon its exterior Surface so as in the course of time to have reduced it gradually to a Mass of undistinguishable Petrification. The Guides say that during the last fifteen years, its bulk has so much increased from the rapid formation of petrifact concretion around & upon it, that its original Form & Appearance have as it were, imperceptibly, disappeared. *

* Count Hohenwart in his *Wegweiser für die Wanderer*, &c. gives the following particulars of his examination of this remarkable Object, soon after it was first discovered, which is very interesting, & leaves little doubt as to the original form

Proceeding a short distance further onward through these clefted recesses, I've arrive at the termination of this branch of the Caverns, the exploration of which, it must be admitted, is both toilsome & tedious.

The Visitor having now penetrated to the extremity, as far as appears practicable, of this branch, must retrace his steps by the same difficult course as that by which he entered it; the Conclusion

as well as the Nature, of this Object. —

"At the distance of about 248 Yards from the Entrance, we arrive at a narrow arched Passage or Hollow, of scarcely the width of 22 inches across. It is only by crawling on one's belly that any entrance can be obtained into it. At a spot distant from the Main Entrance to the Caverns 259 Yards, in this narrow inclosure will be found the Petrified Skeleton, as it is called, which lies on the floor of this inclosure, on the left hand side from the entrance. The Walls are overlaid with white, brown & red Stalactites.

A few days after Ritter von Lowengreif had undertaken the exploration of this portion of the Caverns for the first time after a period of 150 Years, during which interval it had not been visited; I myself explored it, as far as this narrow enclosure, & at that time was fully enabled to examine carefully & very minutely, both the Condition & Appearance of the Skeleton, which till then, had remained

however, which we think he will not fail to come to, is, — that all which is discoverable in it, is very inferior both in point of Beauty & Interest, to what he has previously inspected in the more recently discovered portions of the Adelsberg Caverns. —

As both in the Older Cavern above described, as well as in that portion discovered in the present Century, the Names of an immense number

for so long a period undisturbed in its position.

I am certain that at that time, I noticed particularly the Leg bones were lying close to each other on the floor, & that these with the Body, (which latter even then, was much encrusted over with calcareous deposit) were both found together, close to the left hand side Wall of the Cave. Still I must say, however, so far as I recollect, that it was more from the general form that the whole Mass bore, than from that of any individual parts of it, that the conclusion of its being originally a human Skeleton, could be arrived at; & although the right arm was so much bent round a Stalagmite column that the hand-joints & even those of the fingers & Thumb could be distinctly observed, yet on the contrary, in the place where the bones of the Vertebra of the Neck, as well as the Head itself, should have been distinguishable,

of Visitors are to be found extending through various periods of time; some of which are found scratched upon the Stalactite with iron points, others inscribed with red Chalk, & some with Charcoal, most of which are in good preservation, & of the very ancient ones, many are still legible: — the Editor of this Work in order not to omit any thing which may give an Interest to these remarkable Caverns, has undertaken the troublesome & in some instances,

the Calcareous matter had deposited itself so thickly & to such an extent, that no portion of the bones forming this upper part of the figure, were to be distinguished with certainty.

I have here described all what I myself both found & saw, free from all prejudice in favour of any opinion of my own in this matter, & I hope that every Visitor to the Caverns will do justice to the impartiality with which my statement is made. This gives me the right to offer a supposition of my own in reference to this object, which is, that as it then appeared to me, this Skeleton is undoubtedly that of a Human subject; notwithstanding its present condition is such as to render it difficult to trace its original Character with sufficient distinctness.

Five Years after my first visit of inspection to

hazardous task, to search out & to make fac-similes of the most interesting & best preserved ^{ancient} Inscriptions found in this earliest known portion of the Adelsberg Caverns.

These have been introduced into the larger Work on the Adelsberg Caverns published by the Count von Hohenwart, in order that they may be more generally known.*

Some few of them, together with their dates, are here presented in order to add to the

the Cavern, on visiting this Spot the second time, I found both the Leg bones & the Arm considerably encrusted over with the Calcareous deposit, & at the part where I had conjectured the Head of the Skeleton to be, some mischievously foolish Visitor had perforated a Hole through the Calcareous Crust which enveloped this portion of the Figure. I particularly examined this perforation, & found it of some depth, & was enabled to discover two small fragments of human bone of a size too small however, to enable me to judge whether they were portions of the Body, or of the Skull.



The Calcareous Matter is deposited both rapidly & extensively in this Cavern, & it is far from improbable that in the course of 50 Years time, the Visitor to this Cavern may doubt the existence of this Skeleton, in as much that the parts of the Cavern contiguous to this spot will be so completely

* See annexed Plate.



[Faint, illegible text or markings, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Lesbare Inschriften an den Wänden der alten Grotte nach genauer Copirung in Jahrgänge geordnet.

¹² C † M	¹⁵⁷⁵ K. Bringarten	gnad dir Gott ¹⁵⁸⁷ M. Hilff zu Vitharbor	Imr Jacob Rauver 1641
¹³²³ Kizheimm	¹⁵⁷⁵ K.L.	¹⁵⁹² Walut Innikan	16 IMO 42
¹³⁴³ Kizheimer prs	↑↑↑ } Schifferrn 1575	B * P 10 34 1008 M	16 IPS 42
¹³⁹³ C P D	3 Schifferrn 1575	E 10 3 A S Kainah	Loßr Ingaurm *
¹⁴¹² Michael Hanlen	ha. gaurrn 1576 1576 C Longkaimm	¹⁶³⁴ Janz Fürber	Mdren Lemmich pille Jahr 1648 am 12 Quare
¹⁵ S { 38	 Johann Melchior Otto Johan Paul Sarker am 6 Jun 1642	 1641	Godunni Crassaviz 1648
¹⁵¹⁶ Philig Wengrn gnad dir Gott			FRANZ HIMER Zisterngeselle w 3 Lajm
¹⁵²³ Stum, Stymmer	Den mit Summ Joh Bollanthe gnad dir Gott	¹⁶³⁴ PIL 3A	HANS KORN 1689 den 3 Juni
¹⁵³⁴ Kizheimm	x 1580 x Erzgeringm	1034 Casparmoll Pietrich 1636	JOHAN PAVL HVEVER 1675
¹⁵⁸⁰ Rauver	1580 Börger Taufm	MAXIMILIAN FRANNOTZ 1636	E. Kostitz
Janz Fürber (Wjrd)	Janz Anton Jenzoy zu Eroman 1580 ankum zu Eggenm	1641 Stizch	Wlshu Brigelz
¹⁵⁷⁵ S * L P	¹⁵⁸⁵ D B B 1585 1585 J Wolff Janko Jankwitz	Marcinis (n 101 1641	AV P 1675
¹⁵⁷⁵ 57. W (Schifferrere)			1676 S † I

Act. A. Schaffenrath & A. Schaff. Junge St. M. Chastin in Lumbach

*Ancient Inscriptions in the Old Cavern chronologically arranged.
Copied from the Originals by A. Schaffenrath.*

Sch.

completeness of this Guide Book, as also to illustrate families several of whose Names have descended to recent times:

Kirchheimer 1343. Michel Hauser 1412.

Philip Wenger praise to thee, O God 1516.

Stumberg 1523. Rauver 1540.

Hans Hueber 1547. Georg Taufferer 1580.

Franz Anton Herzog zu Kriemau 1580 & also Fürst zu Eggenberg

Dietrich 1634. v. Steinach 1634.

Stephanus Käuianer.

filled up & solidified by the Calcareous deposit, as to render it impossible to reach the spot where the Skeleton is at present found. In any Case, there appears sufficient foundation for the dreadful Conjecture that the unfortunate Being whose body found its last resting place in this Cavern, became by some means deprived of his Cavern-light, & by this, unlooked-for accident, lost all means of effecting his escape; and thus becoming a Victim to Hunger & Thirst, found here in lengthened tortures an untimely End, entombed in an imperishable Grave. *Molliter ossa cubent.*

Since the year in which I made a second visit to this spot as above stated, I have become too corpulent to be able to introduce myself into this narrow part of the Cavern: But Herr Schaffenrath who has visited ^{it} since that time, informs me that the Calcareous deposition continues gradually to increase around the Skeleton. ^(1.)

(1.)

See Appendix at page 48, Note S.

From the above Chronological arrangement of Dates it will be perceived that this portion of the Caverns was known & visited as early as the 14th Century, & continued to be frequented, as far as may be concluded from the above evidence, till the 17th Century; from which period to that of the discovery in the present Century of the more recent portion of these Caverns, an Interval of almost 200 Years, these older Caverns, for reasons which are now unknown, appear not to have been explored.*

* Count Hohenwart, in noticing this remarkable fact in the History of the Caverns, remarks; that the Reader will not fail to observe that the Inscriptions on the sides of this Cavern commence with the Year 1213, but do not extend to our own time, not being traceable later than the Year 1676; leaving a period from the latter year to the year 1816, when this Cavern was first explored by Ritter von Löwenkreiß, of 140 Years, during which it would appear that this Cavern was not visited, as far as can be known. The Cause for this desertion of a place which, as the inscriptions indicate, had been an Object of curiosity & resort for 463 Years, is difficult to explain, except that the Path in use, had become so difficult & dangerous to be availed of, it being at the entrance part of the Cavern at the present time, not more than 13 Inches broad; that Persons were deterred by the danger of attempting to explore it, & finally, it became abandoned by visitors altogether.

(Wegweise für die Wanderer, ^{see} Part III.)

A
SUMMARY
of the
Measurements & Distances
of the CAVERNS, together with the necessary
Instructions for obtaining ADMISSION
to them, &c.

IN concluding this very succinct Description of these astonishing & highly interesting subterranean Regions, the Compiler of this Hand Book thinks it may be interesting to the Visitor to be informed that the celebrity of these Caverns was known to our Ancestors & deemed by them of sufficient importance as a great Natural Curiosity, to deserve special mention, though in times when the Study of Natural Philosophy was neither so well understood, nor so much cultivated as in the present Day; therefore beyond the astonishment & curiosity such singular

Productions of Nature excited in the minds of those who visited these Caverns, little interest was felt or desire expressed to ascertain the physical Laws which led to the production of such singular formations; the phenomena of which, together with the Causes from which they spring, being Acquisitions due solely to the more advanced State of both Geological & Chrystalogical Science of the present Day.

In the Chronicles of the Province of Carniola, (Krain) mention is made of the Wonders of the Caverns of Adelsberg, by Richard, Fürst von Auersperg, in 1673, also by Freiherr von Vatvasor under the Year 1689; — more recently they are spoken of by Balthazar Hacquet in 1774, & shortly after this period by one Tobias Grueber, a secular priest, & at one time a Civil Engineer & Navigation director in Banate; & latterly in the Year 1816, the celebrated poet George Fellingner has made the site & approaches

* According to Sir H. Davy, a Communication was made to the Royal Society by this Individual respecting the natural Curiosities of the Province of Carniola, sometime about this period. Sir H. Davy however, does not seem to think very highly of the Baron

to these Caverns the subject of his Muse.

In the descriptions given by the Individuals above mentioned, who were only acquainted with the original, or what is now termed the older portion of these Caverns, (the principal points of which are the Great Dome & the Old Cavern above described) the distances were all calculated to their situations from the main Entrance; & as it will be found from the description we have given of the older portion of the Caverns, its Claims to the Admiration of

Valvasor's account, if we may judge from the en passant notice he takes of it in his Dialogue of the Proteus, where in speaking of these Caverns & the singular animals found in the bottom of the subterraneous Cavities in Styria, remarks; "I allude to the Proteus Anguinus, — a far greater Wonder of Nature than any of those which the Baron Valvasor detailed to the Royal Society a Century and half ago, as belonging to Carniola, with far too romantic an air for a Philosopher".

It is highly probable this Communication to our Royal Society was either a portion of, or Extracts from, a Work published by Baron Valvasor in 1689, entitled, "Die Ehre des Herzogthums Krain," the Glory of the Duchy of Carniola, in 4 Vols. folio, at Laibach, with many plates. In this Work Valvasor speaks of having visited the Caverns of Adelsberg, & of investigating them fully, giving a minute account of what he observed there, & says that he succeeded in penetrating to a distance of two Miles

Visitors shrink into a very narrow Compass when compared with the higher Attractions presented by the line of Caverns discovered since the Year 1819; therefore all the descriptions given by the abovementioned Authors being confined to the parts known previous to that time, have at present lost their Interest, & in fact, are quite superceded by what has been discovered since that period.

Those who may be desirous of acquiring fuller Information respecting the Adelsberg Caverns

into their Interior. This statement seems hardly credible, particularly when the distance of the whole extent of the Old Cavern from the Main Entrance is known by actual measurement, to be not more than 210 Viennese Klafter, or 434 Yds. english. He also states that his Exploration occupied two hours time; a fact equally as extraordinary as the preceding, if it be meant that such a length of Time would necessarily ^{be} required to accomplish the journey from the Main entrance to the Extremity of the Old Cavern & back, all reasonable time for delays being included. These Statements seem certainly to be made "with far too romantic an Air for a Philosopher". Count Hohenwart, in his Wegweiser, states that the description given by Valvasor, of these Caverns, is the earliest known to be published. He observes that the distance to which V. penetrated is a matter of great doubt. That when we consider the period in which he lived, & peruse the various Ghost Stories he relates in his Book; together with the popular Opinions prevalent in those days; it may

and their extraordinary Contents, we would refer to a Work published in the Year 1830, in three parts, edited by the Graf von Mochenwart; to which the Compiler of this Guide contributed a series of Drawings illustrative of the most interesting Objects found in the Caverns.*

This Work, which far surpasses all other Descriptions that have hitherto been given of these Caverns, does not, however, contain

be concluded, that his Investigation of the Caverns was conducted in a confused imperfect manner, & under the influence of current Opinions respecting such extraordinary places as these Caverns must have appeared, as tending to excite Superstitious feelings in the Minds of most Classes of Visitors. It is therefore highly probable, that during his Journey, the apprehensions of encountering the Apparitions of disturbed Spirits, or other supernatural Beings, may have contributed to keep his Mind in such a continued state of Excitement, as to cause the distance to which he really did penetrate, together with the Return from thence, — pursued doubtless, with difficulty & occasional deviations & interruptions, & under feelings of danger & alarm; — to appear much greater than it really was.

It may therefore safely be concluded, that he did not reach the other side of the River Poik, which separates the newly discovered

* The Illustrations accompanying this Translation consist of the Engravings from the above Work; the Drawing of the English Garden, obtained from an Artist at Trieste; & some tinted Lithographs taken from Dr. Schmidt's recently published Work on the Caverns of Carniola. See Appendix at page 48, Note X.

any account of the latest discoveries that have been made; such as the Archduke John's Cavern, & various interesting Objects which since the Year 1832 have been discovered & brought to view while carrying on the Works necessary for the preservation & condition of the Caverns; most of which, are briefly noticed in this Guide Book, which may be considered as the most recently published account of all that is at present known of their Extent & Contents.*

portion of the Cavern from the Old; & that his Investigation must have been confined to the latter only, but to what extent is doubtful.

It is rather singular his Name does not appear among those of the Visitors to the extreme End of the Old Cavern, amongst which are found several of Visitors contemporary with himself.

* The Date of Schaffenrath's "Guide" is 1834.

Since the Year 1819 a Main Road or thoroughfare together with Pathways have been constructed with blocks of Stalactite, both firm & commodious, & also accessible throughout these Caverns. These have been trodden by thousands of Visitors both Strangers & Foreigners of all ranks & Conditions of Society, attracted to this singular Spot by its far spread Celebrity; while the various recesses & intricate Windings have been paced & diligently sought out by many whose love of Science & desire to explore the extraordinary Agency of Nature's Laws, have induced them to spare no pains or personal fatigue in order to make themselves fully acquainted with the Causes, as well as the Effects of these laws, which, of their kind, are not to be found upon so grand a Scale, elsewhere in this part of the Globe.

In order therefore, to satisfy the frequently expressed wish of various Visitors & Scientific persons who, having explored these Caverns, were desirous of knowing the Depths & Distances to which they had been conducted during their Subterranean Tour; — the Committee of Management, desirous of omitting nothing on their part which might contribute to the Convenience & Satisfaction of Visitors, as also to afford necessary Information to Scientific Explorers of these Caverns, so interesting to Geologists; have

with considerable pains, & due regard to Accuracy, had regular Surveys made of the Caverns in all their parts & Branches; — proper measurements of Dimensions have also been taken, & are given in this Work in all cases where it appears necessary, which arrangement will be found by Scientific Visitors, a great saving of both time & trouble.

With reference to the Distances given in the following Lists, they have all been carefully calculated from the principal Entrance to the Caverns, at the termination of the Road leading from the Town of Adelsberg.

The Distance from the principal Entrance to the Archway or Gate leading to Mount Calvary, along the constructed Causeway by which it is approached, is in Current Vienna Measure	Yards.
925 Klafter or	1912
The passage through the Side Cavern as far as the Lwite Monument	65 Klafter
	135
The pathway leading to Mount Calvary	250 Klafter
	517
The Length of the two Side Caverns connected together by a Gallery opened for that purpose, viz:	
	Carr: forward 2564

	Bro ^t forward.....	2564
From the Grotto on one Side, to the Entrance of the Gallery; & from thence to St. Stephan, on the other:	450 Klafter..... or.....	930
The Length of the Pathway through the Cavern closed with an Iron grated Door	210 Klafter..... or	434
Length taken together of all the constructed & serviceable Pathways made throughout the Caverns	1900 Klafter, or Yards	<u>3928</u>

The various Works that have been undertaken throughout the Caverns from the Year 1819 to 1834, in order to render them as safe & accessible as possible, have already cost an Outlay of more than 3000 florins or £300; & further Sums will be still required to continue those Works which from time to time will be absolutely necessary to keep the Caverns in proper Order (1)

It has been deemed a Matter of sufficient importance to present also a Summary in measured Distances of the length to which these Caverns extend, comprehending all their Ramifications, Divisions & Recesses; — in order to afford the Visitor

(1)

See Appendix at page 48, Note *U*.

as correct an idea as possible of the Extent to which they range throughout the interior of the Mountain in which they are situated.

This Undertaking has been carried out under the superintendance & directions of the Compiler of this Work, & the result is as follows; —

The Distance from the Main Entrance to the Old Caverns, including all its Windings, Openings & Irregularities of Sides & Levels; — measures a Length of,	W. Klafter 210..... or Yards	434
The Great Dome with its various Outlets & Openings,	W. Klff: 70.....	145
From the principal Entrance as far as to St. Stephan, including all the Windings, Outlets, Passages and Recesses between these two points;	measures a distance of W. Klff: 1020 or	2108
The Length of the two Side Caverns, connected together by means of a made Gallery, each Cavern measured separately include a length of;	W. Klff: 280..... or	579
Mount Calvary, including its various Circum- ferences, Windings, Hollows, & Recesses,	form an Area of W. Klff: 450..... or	930
	Carr. forward	<u>4196</u>

From St. Stephan to the Reservoir, (Bassin) and
from thence proceeding as far as the Tartarus, including
all its Irregularities of level & its Windings; give a

4196

Distance of W.Kft: 450 or 930

The Length of the Archduke John's Cavern,
including all its Windings, Outlets & Passages;

is W.Kft: 340 or 703

The Length of that Branch of the Caverns along which
no regular pathway has been constructed, & which
is not shewn to Visitors; —

is W.Kft: 180 or 372

Length occupied by the Adelsberg Caverns
as far as they are at present known and

explored; W.Kft: 3000 or Yds 6201

or rather more than Three & a half Miles English. ~

In order to meet the convenience of
Visitors, & particularly of Travellers passing through Adels-
berg, the Committee of Management have made such
Arrangements that the Caverns are always open to inspec-

tion by Night as well as by Day, during the whole
of the Year; & in order to remove any Scruples that
may be felt by Strangers in hesitating to enter these
Subterranean Regions from apprehensions as to the
Condition of the Atmosphere experienced therein, it
may be as well to state, that both the Atmosphere as
well as the Temperature of the Caverns are pure &
wholesome throughout the Year: — in Autumn as
well as in the depth of Winter the Air is both agree-
able & mildly warm; — while in Summertime the
temperature is both cool & refreshing; & at all times
free from any unhealthy or unpleasant Vapours
or Exhalations. *

The time occupied in an Inspection

* Upon this Subject, Count Hohenwart, in the Work
previously referred to, remarks as follows: —

I have now some curious Facts to relate, which when
my Attention was first attracted by them, it seemed a predisposition
on my part, to believe they really existed; but subsequently, repeated Obser-
vation & Experience confirmed that which in the first instance, I was disposed
to attribute to the power of Imagination solely. I observed that the Lights
borne by the Guides burned much clearer, & consequently were more efficacious
during the hours of Night, than in the Day; my Stay in the Caverns I

of these Caverns either in part, or to their full extent, may be calculated as follows; which will serve to regulate the Visitor in his arrangements where he has but a limited portion of time to devote to the object of his Visit to Adelsberg.

Leaving Adelsberg & proceeding direct to the Caverns, & exploring them as far as the Curtain, (Vorhang) & returning to the Town (without making any unusual Stay in the Caverns) will occupy

Four Hours time

found to be attended with feelings more refreshing & exhilarating during the Night, than in the Day time, & the Atmosphere throughout the Caverns I felt to be clearer & purer than in the daytime. The Causes for these differences, I profess myself unable to explain; but ^{that} the facts are as I state them, the commonest Peasant in the Neighbourhood who may happen to have visited the Caverns, will bear witness to their truth.

As to myself, who have frequently passed 36 hours together in these Caverns, & have both taken my Meals & slept there; I have always preferred to pursue my Investigations & Researches through the Night, in preference to the Daytime.

From Adelsberg to the Caverns proceeding as far as Mount Calvary, — the examination of which, together with the Dropping Well, & penetrating as far as the Tartarus & back to the Town; — will occupy

Five Hours & a half.

Lastly; — To examine & explore the Caverns of Adelsberg as far as they have hitherto been discovered, including all the Branches, Windings, Hollows, & Recesses, of which the measurements & distances have been taken as specified in the above Lists, & according to the Plan of the Caverns drawn up for this Work; will require more than

Twelve Hours time.

These Caverns are placed under a Committee of Management & Superintendance termed der Verwaltungs Commission, the object of which is to preserve them in such Order, & to make such necessary Arrangements as shall at all times render them fit for the inspection of the Public, without inconvenience or danger.

The Commission is presided over by a Provincial District Governor, (Landes Gouverneur) & a President of the Commission, (Kreishauptman) who

appoint a Civil Engineer, Clerk of the Works, (Ober-richter des Orts) District Surveyor, (Bezirks Commisær) & other Officers for the general Management, Collection of Funds & Disbursements necessary for the preservation & maintenance upon a proper footing of these Caverns, for the accommodation of the Public⁽¹⁾.

The Regulations established for Admission, & for Expences attending the inspection of the Caverns, are as follows; —

The Name, Address, & Country of the Visitor to be inserted in the Visitors Book kept at the Cashiers Office in the town, for that purpose; & at which application must be made for permission to view the Caverns.

The Charge for Admission for each Individual is fixed at 30 Kreuzers, (about one Shilling English) but Military Officers in the Austrian Service are charged only 15 Kreuzers.

Arrangements for the Number of Torch bearers & Guides required, are to be made with the Cashier, according to the time intended to be spent in visiting the Caverns, & the number of the party going; — the

(1.)

See Appendix at Page 48, Note t.

Rates vary from 20 Kreuzers each Light for 2 Hours time, to 30 Kreuzers for 3 Hours, & 40 Kreuzers for 4 Hours time.

Count Hohenwart recommends every Visitor to engage at least 4 Torch bearers, as absolutely required for obtaining the most favorable & distinct views of the various Objects; in certain portions of the Caverns, particularly in the Great Dome, a greater number is required in order to obtain correct views of the extent of the surrounding Spaces, as well as of the singular Optical Effects produced in several of these spacious Vaults crowded as they are with the most fanciful forms, both single & in combination: — to view the interior of these Caverns with pleasure & advantage in almost every part, much Skill & Judgement is required in placing the Lights so as to bring out fully their extraordinary Characteristics, & produce permanent impressions in the Mind of the Spectator.

for Cavern of
Corgniale &
Appendix,
see over. —

The CAVERN of CORGNIALE.

In the Year 1838 I visited the Cavern at Corgniale, a Village distant about 10 miles from Trieste, but in a different direction to Adelsberg. I was induced to go, in consequence of it being represented to me as an Object of great interest. Its proximity to Trieste is, I presume, the cause in a great measure, of its reputation with the inhabitants of that City, as being best known to them. I did not however, derive much satisfaction from the Visit.

The entrance is situated in the middle of a field, & application must be made in the village for a Guide, who provides Lights, &c. The Descent is attended with some trouble & difficulty; the passage being for the greater part, narrow, steep, & very perpendicular; similar, in fact, to the Shaft of a Cornish Mine. The depth of the Descent from the upper surface to the mouth of the Cavern is said to range from 800 to 900 feet; but though considerable, I doubt if it be so much.

The Cavern of Corgniale in point of length, is the smallest of all the Caverns of Carniola; being not more than about 304 Yards. Its arrangement is

very simple, & apparently uniform throughout; consisting of a main passage, or Gallery, running through the whole length of the Cavern, varying considerably in both level & width, from which diverge, on the right as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes, or Caves, of various dimensions, but none, as far as I could judge, of extraordinary proportions, such as are found at Adelsberg, & elsewhere. In the inspection of these, consists the interest attached to the Cavern of Corgniale; but to one who has visited & studied the wonders of Adelsberg, the impressions produced by what is to be seen here, will be but slight & temporary; perhaps to the prejudice of the former, which should be visited previous to going to Adelsberg, or not at all, as being quite unnecessary. Several of the Grottoes are richly filled with Stalactite formations varying much in respect as to dimensions & colour, several of which, of a rose pink blended with white, attracted my notice as a novel combination of tints, not previously met with.

But a general Monotony of Character seems to me, to predominate over the Contents of this Cavern; & renders a minute or lengthened examination of its interior, especially as it is not kept in very good order, both tedious & unnecessary. A visit of little more than ONE Hour's duration, was amply sufficient to gratify my Curiosity in all that regards the Interior of the Cavern of Corgniale.

Any disappointment felt at the inspection of Corgniale, was compensated by the pleasure received from an agreeable drive thence, after leaving the Cavern, to Lippinska, a pleasantly situated Village

in this neighbourhood, to inspect the Imperial Stud, or Stud, an extensive Establishment formed there for the breeding & training of Horses for the service of the Imperial family, & for State occasions.

The Buildings & Arrangements for the Animals are extensive & well laid out, & the whole is surrounded by a large Park, or Enclosure of Grassland, where the Animals can graze & take exercise. I saw here some noble specimens of pure Arabian Mares & Horses, of beautiful shape & symmetry; together with a numerous variety of choice specimens of Hungarian, German, & English Hunter & Blood Horses.

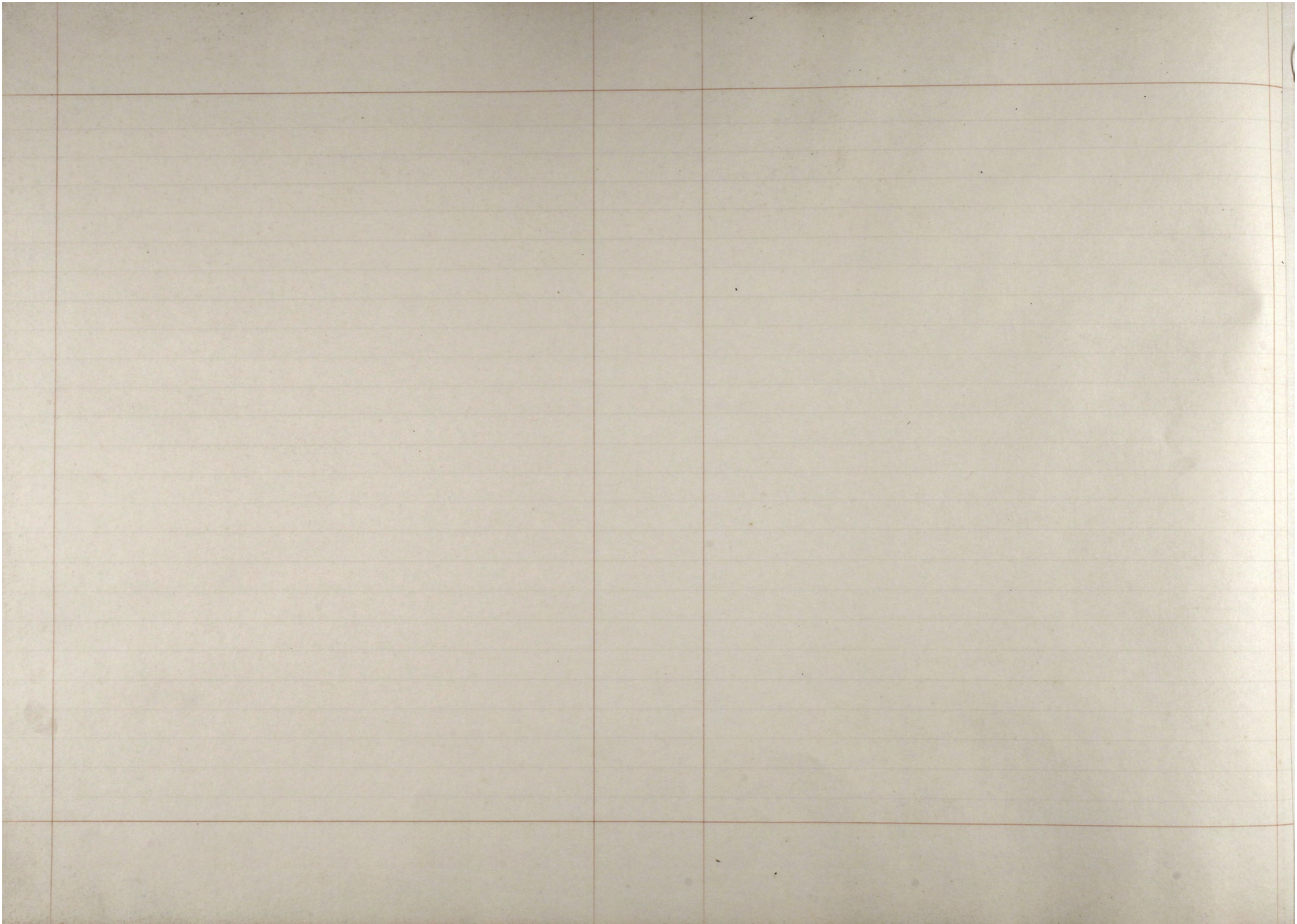
I never before had an Opportunity of beholding such a choice Collection of Specimens of the noble Equine Race.

FINIS.



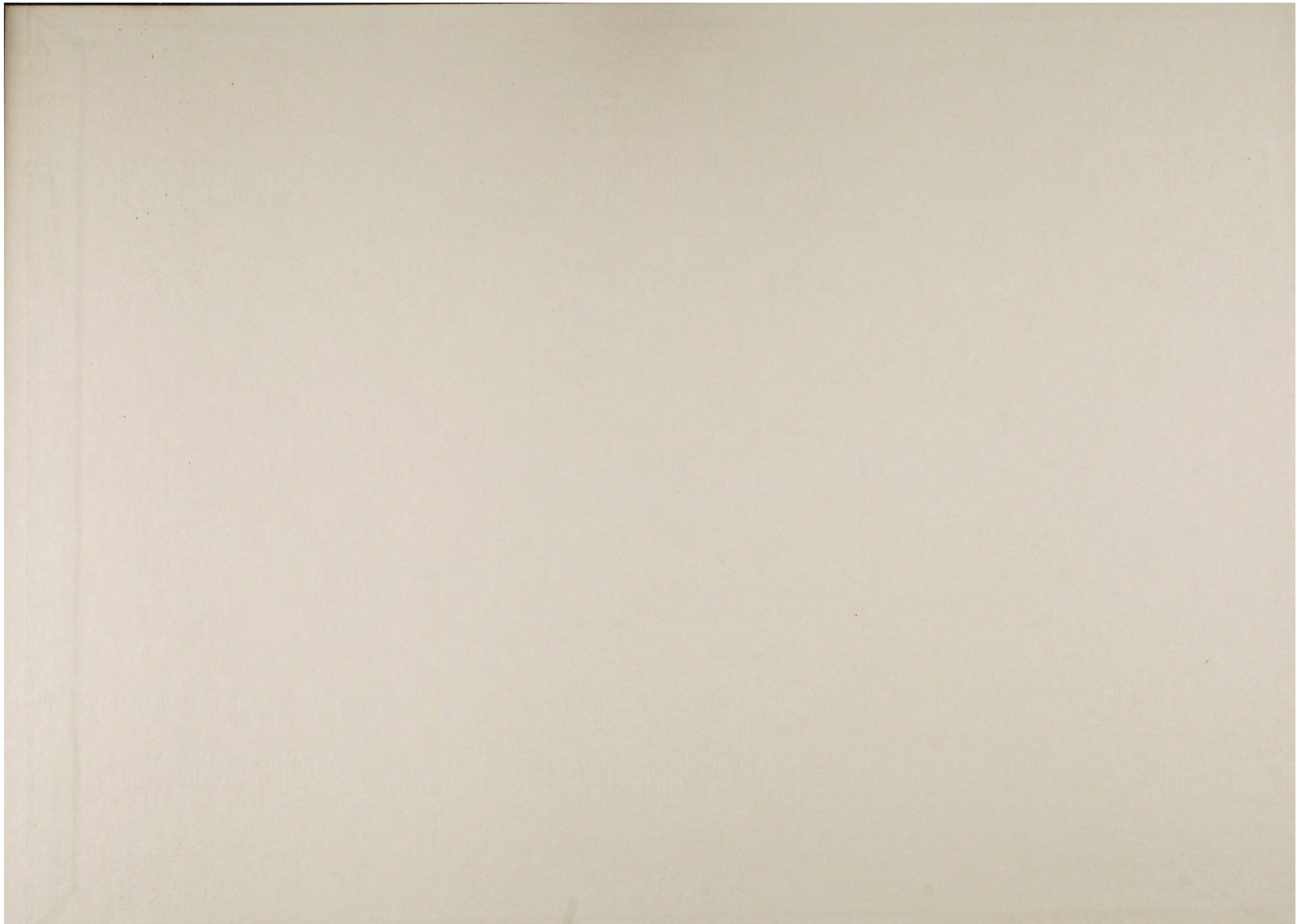
Totum hunc Librum propria manu scripsit P.

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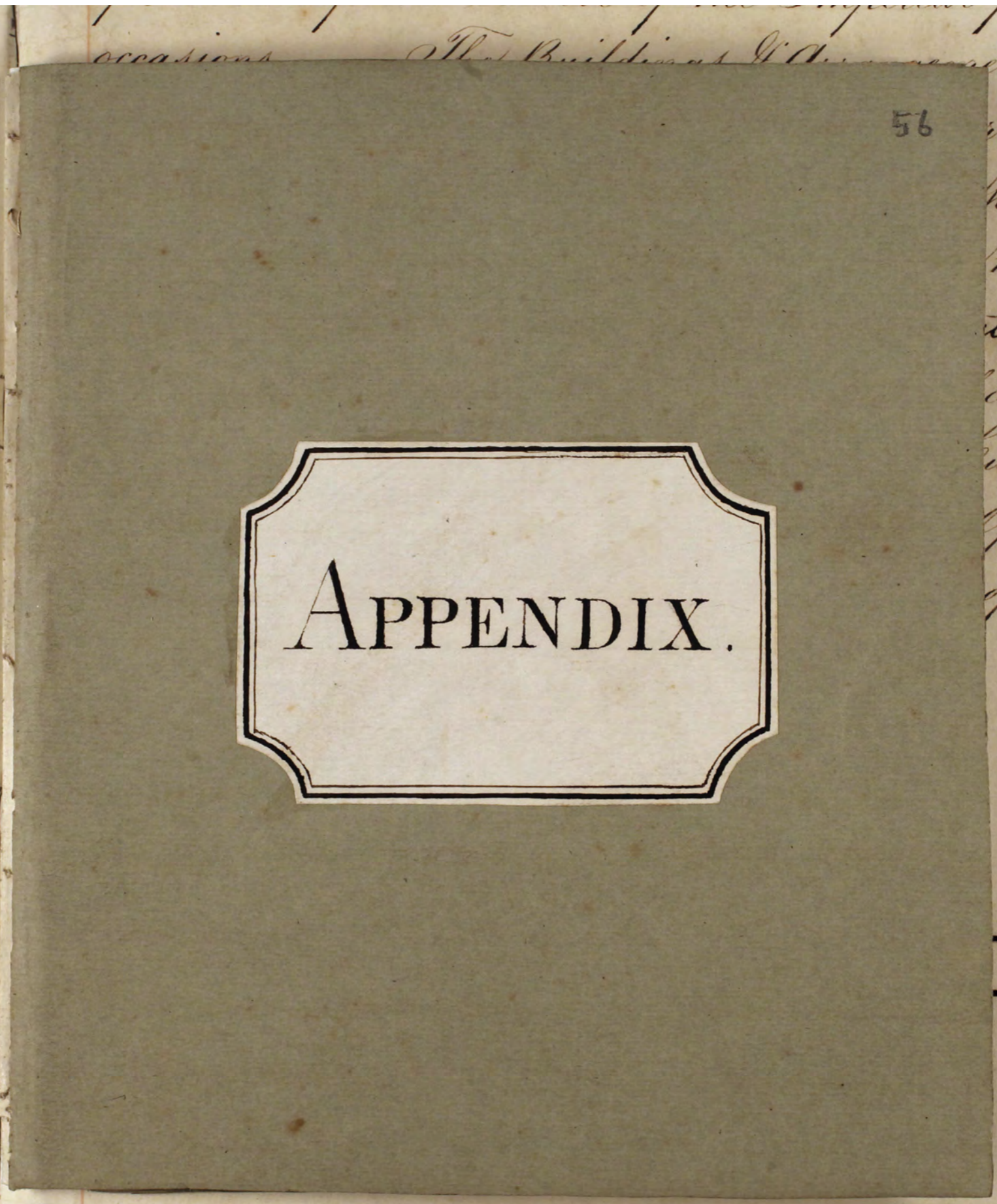
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This image shows a blank ledger page with a grid of 3 columns and 20 rows. The grid is formed by thin, light-colored lines. The page is otherwise empty of any text or markings.





... a series of Grottoes,
... as far as I could
... are found at Adelsberg,
... consists the interest at
... who has visited & studied
... oduced by what is to be
... apis to the prejudice of
... us to going to Adelsberg,
... eral of the Grottoes are
... uch in respect as to di-
... ink blended with white,
... ts, not previously met with.
... seems to me, to predominate
... minute or lengthened
... is not kept in very
... visit of little more
... ent to gratify my
... the Cavern of Cosquiale.



APPENDIX.

56

occasions
The Building of the
... for the Animals
... rounded by a large
... the animals can
... noble specimens
... tiful shape & sym-
... choice specimens
... unter & Blood Horses.
... opportunity of beholdin
... of the noble Equine

... as well as the left hand, a Series of Grottoes

... of ... for the service of the Imperial
occasions ...

57

... of the Cavern of Cognac.

58

Preparatory Notice.

The substance of the following Notes consists of either Extracts from, or Condensations of, passages taken from Dr. Adolf Schmidt's Work, recently published, entitled, "Die Grotten und Höhlen von Adelsberg, Lueg, Planina & Laas"; forming the first portion of a general Inspection & Survey of the Caverns of Carniola, commenced in 1850, & continued till the Year 1853. This Survey was undertaken by Dr. S. at the suggestion of the Imperial Geological Institution, & under the Auspices & Support of the Austrian Government, & published at the expence of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna.

This is a highly valuable Work, containing the fullest & most recent Information, respecting the Subjects in question. It is both scientific & popular, & is alike valuable & instructive to the Natural Philosopher, as to the Inquisitive Traveller.

it will also be found a good Guide Book to the various parts of the Country to which it refers, for all classes of Visitors; presuming them, however, to be sufficiently acquainted with the German language.

It is much to be desired that the more descriptive portion of this Work were translated into French & English, & kept on the spot, for the accommodation of Foreigners who visit Adelsberg; of which the number may be expected to increase greatly, when the Vienna & Trieste Rail Road comes into Operation.

London 1856.

J.O.

Notes & Additions intended as a Supplement to the preceding Work.

(Note A.) The name of the town Adelsberg should doubtless be written Adlersberg; signifying Eagles Mount. In the Slavonic ^{Language} ~~of which~~ the Krainisch, or Carniolian ^{is a} dialect, the name of this place is Postojna, which signifies an Eagle. It is not improbable that the rocky Hill on the Summit of which stand the ruins of the Castle, was originally the favorite resort of Eagles; the surrounding Country for several miles being a dense forest known by the name of der Birnbaumers Wald, through which the Roman road passed to Laybach, which ^(Ljubljana) was the Roman Station, ^{Admona, & finally} terminated at Vindobona, considered to be the site of the modern Vienna. — In very early Medieval Documents, Adelsberg is termed Aquila Montium. Little is known respecting this

town, except the names of a few of the proprietors or lords of the Estate into whose possession ^{it came} either by transfer or inheritance, until the 16.th & 17.th Centuries, when the few following historical facts are found recorded respecting it.

In the War that ensued between the Emperor Maximilian & the Venetian Republic, the Castle was assaulted & taken by Antonio Contarini, who, however, was able to retain possession of it but for a short time.

The Country around Adelsberg was ravaged & laid waste by the Turks, in three distinct irruptions made by them into the provinces of Southern Austria bordering on the Adriatic, in the years 1559, 1560 & 1564. *

* The plains of Carinthia were, during the 15.th ~~th~~ Century, the theatre of frequent campaigns with the Turks. Their empire was then at its height, or rather, still on the increase, & the incursions & forays of their wild hordes, like the waves of an advancing tide, on each successive inroad, overleapt the limits of their previous incursions. At each assault they penetrated deeper into the fertile provinces of the Austrian

In December 1615 the Gentry of Carniola under the command of Battazgar Von Scheff were encamped in a body at Adelsberg, for the defence of the province against the Venetian troops, who, it was apprehended, were about to invade it. The Republic of Venice was in the habit of attacking & holding possession of the ports & towns on the Coast of the Adriatic belonging to Austria, whenever they were at war with the Emperor.

Valvasor in his description of Carniola, written about 1689, describes the Castle of Adelsberg as being at that time in good Condition, surrounded by walls, and as

dominions. One of the most fearful attacks was made in the Year 1492. The Country wherever they trod was desolated with fire and sword; thousands of its inhabitants were carried away as slaves, & many more were butchered with horrid accompaniments of cruelty. It sounds somewhat strange at the present day to hear of the horrors of Asiatic warfare in the very heart of Europe; but at the period alluded to, the very name of Turk created a panic in the furthest corners of Europe, & even the Pope himself trembled in the Vatican. This state of things (Murray's Guide for S^t. Germ^{any}.) continued more or less till about the close of the 17th Century, when the

having a gateway tower. No particulars are stated as to the date of its erection, or by whom it was built. It appears to have been dismantled in comparatively recent times, & allowed to go to ruin, as being no longer valuable as a place of defence. Whether it was merely a Hill Castle, similar to several others in this part of the Country, or sufficiently capacious to be used as a stronghold & dwelling place of the owner of the domain, is not mentioned, & from the existing state of the ruins, cannot easily be determined. There is an ancient building not very distant from the Castle Hill, termed das Schloss, the Castle, now appropriated to the use of one of the provincial Government Establishments, from which it may be concluded, that Adelsberg in former ages, either in this building, or at the Castle on the Hill, was the residence of the ancient Herren von Adelsberg,

signal & overwhelming defeat of the Ottoman Army in its attempt to besiege & capture Vienna, appears to have discouraged all further attempts of the barbarians to extend their Empire into the South of Europe.

The Lords of Adelsberg, some notices of whom, appear in the Annals of the History of the province of Carniola. The fact of possessing a Castle, would induce the supposition that in former times, Adelsberg, though only a market town, was a place of some importance in this neighbourhood; & in fact, it is the only place of any consequence between Laibach & the extreme point of the Coast at which Trieste is situated. Velasco speaks in very favorable terms of this town, & praises it highly on account of its handsome & convenient Houses.

But about the period when his book was published, Adelsberg was doomed to undergo a dreadful ^{Calamity}, as appears from an entry extracted from ~~an~~ an Urbarial Vormerkung, (district property Register) of that period; which records, that on the 10th Nov^r 1689, between 2 & 3 A.M. the town was set on fire by Lightning & laid in ruins. From this it may be concluded, the Houses must, for the greatest part, have been constructed of wood, crowded together & wholly unprovided with the means of opposing any resistance to such an unlooked for visitation.

regards the Interior of the Cavern of Cosquale.

It is not improbable that owing to this unfortunate circumstance, together with the abandonment of the title, Adelsberg lost its importance, & sunk into the condition of an inferior market town, or decent sort of Village; depending principally upon its becoming a post & diligence station, & a halting place for passing travellers to & from Trieste. In this state of insignificance it continued to remain until the discovery of the New Caverns in 1819, when, owing to the world wide fame they have acquired, & the continued influx of visitors & foreigners from all parts, Adelsberg has at length become a town of considerable importance & notoriety.

Great improvements & additions have taken place in this town since 1816. Dr Schmidl describes it as in general, well built, & containing several townlike looking houses. A Casino, or public Rooms, has been established, comprising a Dining Saloon, Billiard Room & Reading Room; the last, furnished with various Newspapers, & periodical journals, together with a small but select Library. Admission is granted

to Strangers upon the most liberal terms.

The Church, though not an elegant building, contains nothing particularly remarkable. In the Churchyard is the grave of Fillingers the poet, who has celebrated the Caverns of Adelsberg by his verses "die Grotte von Adelsberg", which are considered to possess much merit. He had been an officer in the Austrian Army; lost an eye in the service, ~~returned~~ & was taken prisoner by the French. At the general peace he returned to his Country, held the rank of Ober lieutenant & supervisor of the Conscripton, settled at Adelsberg in 1815, where he composed his poem, & died there in 1816. His poetical Works have been collected & printed in 2 Vols. —

On the left side of the town, approaching it from Trieste, & at but a short distance from the high street, rises the Hill Sovitch; on the summit of which, stand the ruins of Adelsberg Castle. They are not of any interest, except forming a picturesque object. In proceeding towards the point at which the Entrance to the Caverns is situated, the Visitor will in the first instance, feel disposed to take a survey of this rocky Hill, which is for the most part,

covered with herbage, but towards its northern slope, overgrown with bushes. The Interest attached to this spot is, that within the deep recesses of this Hill, these celebrated caverns, the entrance to which can be perceived from its slopes, ~~derive their origin~~ derive their origin. If the direction which the principal divisions of the Adelsberg Caverns take, were marked out by lines of stakes on the upper part of the surface above ground, from the summit of this Hill the whole extent of their subterranean course might be accurately traced.

The View from this spot, overlooking the surrounding country which is pleasing & of a cultivated character, is very extensive, commanding a distant prospect of the Adriatic Sea, the sterile ~~region~~ region of the Karst, contrasted with the lofty forms of the distant Julian Alps, the Hills by which the town is surrounded, several clothed with thick woods, & the Valley in which Adelsberg is situated, watered by the winding Poich, interspersed

with meadows, gardens & cultivated enclosures -

(Note B.) The Caverns of Adelsberg are undoubtedly the most extensive in Europe. But America can boast of Giant Caverns to which, in point of extent, those of Adelsberg shrink into complete insignificance.

The Mammoth Caves in Kentucky, U.S. taken with all their side caverns, & their various ramifications, are estimated to comprehend an extent certainly not less than One Hundred & Sixty English Miles.

But in the opinion of a recent German Traveller, to whom the Caverns of Adelsberg are well known, those of America in point of richness, variety, & abundance of Stalactite formations generally, are very far inferior to those of Adelsberg.

(Note C.) Nagel in his description of the Natural Curiosities of Carniola, drawn up at the request of the Emperor Francis I.st in the year 1748, most distinctly states, that at the period when he wrote, there still exis-

ted at a distance of about $124\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the main Entrance, & also in adjacent parts; an old Wall, by means of which, originally, the Entrance to the Caverns had been closed up in those times when the Inhabitants of the Town & neighbourhood were accustomed to retire to these Caverns with their Goods & moveable property, as a place of concealment during the ravages of the Country made by the invading Turks, in the 15th & 16th Centuries, as previously mentioned.

(Note d.) The direction taken by the River through the Caverns, in its general bearing is Northwardly; & in its course, passes near to the terminating Points of the Caverns, which are, the Reservoir (Bassin) & the Tartarus.

That a connection with the so called Bassin or Reservoir, (which is nothing more than a Cleft or Hollow, filled with water) and the River, exists, cannot be doubted; — for when the latter is much

swollen, as is often the case in Winter time, or in very rainy weather, the Volume of Water discharged by it into the Caverns, is so much increased, that not only the Bassin & the Tartarus overflow, but the adjacent parts become inundated.

The River continuing its subterranean course after leaving the Caverns, reappears above ground at a point near to the Magdalena Grotto. It is asserted that the Poik flows through this Grotto, but such is not the case. From researches that have been made, it has been satisfactorily ascertained, that the Collection of Water found in the Magdalena Grotto, is stagnant; & in all probability, an overflow from the River.

(Note e.) The English Garden was at one period, a particularly attractive Spot, on account of the beautiful sparkling white small Points, & variously formed Masses, little reedlike

pillars which rose from the floor of the Cavern; together with the variety of Stalactite formations pendant from its roof; the greatest portion of which, it is much to be regretted, have now disappeared, owing to the unchecked pilferings of visitors.

(Note f.) This was a Stalactite formation known by the name of "The two united Hearts"; it must be admitted, that in point of shape & form, the resemblance to such a groupe was very great, & its title highly appropriate. It is with the greatest regret that I have to add, this lovely & interesting Sport of Nature, was, in the year 1848, by the rude hand of some mischievous Spoiler, torn away from its place, & stolen! — thus depriving for ever, the Cavern of one of its most interesting objects.

(Note g.) The principal Passage or Highway through the Caverns, for the whole distance, even to the summit of Mount Calvary, is, on this Occasion,

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so fully lighted up, as to render a Guide unnecessary.

The most interesting Portions & Objects, such as the Dome, the Dancing Hall, the Curtain & Mount Calvary, are illuminated with much care and attention to effect: in the case of the last mentioned object, several hundreds of Candles & Torches are employed, which produces a very imposing Effect.

(Note h.) When this Cavern was first examined, large Quantities of fossilised Animal Bones, particularly of the *Ursus spelæus*, called by the Germans the Cavern Bear, were discovered. The Area was cleared out, levelled, & an artificial flooring composed of Chalk & Clay, laid down for the purpose of rendering it suitable for the annual Ball held here at Whitsuntide. This was done by the direction of Count Lovengreif, who bestowed great pains in the early arrangements for rendering the Adelsberg Caverns both accessible & popular.

Dr. Schmidt thinks that it is much to be

regretted, that a more extensive & searching Investi-
-gation of the whole of the Basement of this Cavern
was not made previous to laying down the flooring,
as the various fossil animal deposits might have
proved interesting in a scientific point of view.

Fossilised animal bones have been found in various
parts of the Adelsberg Caverns, particularly at
Mount Calvary. They have been found generally
throughout the principal Caverns of Carniola.

A large collection has been preserved in the Museum
of Laibach, & from the abundance that has been
obtained, a celebrated German Naturalist has suc-
-ceeded in compiling an almost entire Skeleton
of the Cavern Bear. The bones are found generally
to consist of the *Ursus spelæus*, the *Felis spelæa*,
or Wild Cat, the Weasel & the wild Boar.*
(D. S.)

* As regards the Animal Bones found in the Adel. Caverns,
it is difficult to account for their presence in the localities
where they were discovered. Various theories have been

(Note i.) More correctly, the Charcoal Kiln;
or, as the Guides call it, the Charcoal Oven.

This is a very bulky Stalagmite Mass, which really
owing to its shape, will remind the Beholder of a
round upright Charcoal Kiln.

(Note k.) The Grab is a very large Mass
of white dripstone, overlaid from the top to the bottom
with many elegant small shoots or pillars, which inclose
a hollow space around it. It requires but a slight
stretch of a lively imagination to discover in this

proposed, but none are entirely satisfactory. It has been supposed,
that in past ages some outlets from the Caverns to the surround-
ing forests must have existed, which, owing to various causes, prin-
-cipally Earthquakes, have undergone important changes in the course
of Time. None are now known to exist, though in almost all parts
of the Caverns, Water percolates continually from the upper surfaces
of the Vaults & Caves; Landsprings & Soaks drain into them from
points which cannot be discovered, & from sources which must lay deeply
buried beneath the upper surface of the incumbent Rock, or earthy Soil.
(J. O.)

Object a close resemblance to a Gothic Baldachin, or Canopy, arching over a Grave or Tomb, which appears to occupy the inner space thus surrounded.

(Note L.) The Colossal Column is a detached Stalagmite composed of an Agglomeration of several single Columns, run together in one huge Mass, forming a truncated Column of at least, $62\frac{1}{4}$ feet in circumference, & from $19\frac{3}{4}$ to $20\frac{3}{4}$ ^{feet} in diameter; proportions greater than those of any other Column found throughout the whole of these Caverns.

Its height is only $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet. - According to a statement made by the Guides, the regular & continual drop-falling which has been observed during a period of 15 Years, has but produced a calcareous sediment, or deposit, around its base, distinguishable only by careful & repeated observation.

To what powerful Agency, & to what space of Time, are we to ascribe the production of such an enormous Mass as we here find in this Column?

(Note M.) Owing to the practice of applying Candles, as near as possible to one side of this Object, to display its brilliancy & transparency in the fullest manner to Visitors, whose admiration is always found impatient for the most striking exhibition of its peculiar beauties; its further side has become very much clouded, & obscured by Candle smoke; the consequence is, that the whole Mass has, in the course of time, become much less diaphanous, & the effect of the lighting it up, when viewed at a distance, is not so striking as it was 10 or 15 Years ago. *

Mr Schmid has started a new Idea respecting

* It appears to me, this mode of illumination by flaming tallor Candles, of an Object so delicate in substance, & so brilliant & pure in tint, is very clumsy. A much better & more powerful effect might be given, by using two or three Reflector Lamps, such as our Carriage Lamps, which must be well known & used in Vienna; even the common Bull's eye policeman's lamp, would be better than the light of Candles. But the Germans are slow to improve. No

the form in which the Extremity of the Curtain originally terminated; though he does not state that any one has ever seen, or has heard it reported, to have existed in this conjectured form, on its original discovery, which happened not longer ago than in the Year 1818 or 1819.

Directly under the Curtain rises a stalagmite Mass of a conical form, about $4\frac{1}{4}$ ft. in height.

It is highly probable, according to D. S., that this Mass was at one period, united to the Curtain in such a manner, that the longest projecting tubular Fold of the Curtain, rested upon the Stalagmite beneath; in fact, that the calcareous deposit continued longest in operation throughout the surface of this long outer fold, till it reached the ground, where its gravitating force downwards being interrupted, it settled into a kind of foot, or base, to the whole upper pendant

pains should be spared to promote the preservation, in as perfect a Condition as possible, of this most wonderful of Nature's artistic productions. (J. O.)

Sheet of Stalactite. D. S. then conjectures that this supporting Mass was separated from the upper draped portion, or as it may be termed, the Curtain part of the Stalactite mass, either by accident or some wanton act of folly; under the idea, perhaps, that it was an improvement, by causing the Curtain to hang perfectly detached, & without any support.

This conclusion he endeavours to support, by asserting, that on the Edge or extremity of the lowest fold of the Curtain, no traces are to be found of that coloured Bordering, with which the ends of all the other folds of the Curtain are transversed; & which, no doubt, would have been found equally perfect, in that part of the fold terminating either in or upon, the Stalagmite beneath; the upper portion of which, however, is at present wanting, for the reasons he assigns as above stated. Under these circumstances, this Stalagmite now appears as a separate & independent formation; having no connection either in form, or appearance, with the Curtain above it, of which, in his

view of the Case, it originally was both the natural & appropriate Termination.*

In order to prevent any damage occurring to this extraordinary Object, from the indiscretion of

* I confess, it appears to me very difficult to conceive how this disruption could have taken place, whatever were the means employed to effect it, without bringing down, if not the whole of the Curtain, at least that portion of it, immediately connected with the long fold described by D. S. as united to the Stalagmite Column. I should think no one would have taken the risk of making such a separation; or if proposed, that it would have been allowed to be attempted under any circumstances. However ingenious the conclusions of D. S. may be, I should feel disposed to believe, that the Stalagmite beneath the Curtain is, most decidedly, a subsequent formation. We know too little of the Laws by which Dripstone Concretions are governed in point of form & connection of parts, as to be able to decide from what we see, why, how, & when, such creations were produced; except, that they are the result of certain mechanical laws applicable to matter & motion. Of this the Colossal Column, the Picture, & a variety of other ~~more~~ extraordinary forms, found in these Caverns, are striking instances.

(J. O.)

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of Visitors, the space surrounding it, has been inclosed by a wooden railing, so that at present, it cannot be approached within an armslength distance; & the Guides have received strict orders, to allow no one to point at, or touch it, with either walking sticks, or any thing else carried in the hand; a practice, which careless & imprudent persons, in viewing remarkable Objects, are too apt to indulge in.

Of all persons whose visits to these Caverns are most to be dreaded, are thoughtless Admirers, & selfish Lovers of natural Curiosities; — as they generally prove to be the greatest Enemies to them; as, for an example of the latter Class, most particularly, that Englishman, who, seized with a violent desire to become possessed of such an astonishing object, offered on the spot, 100 Ducats (about £45) to be allowed to take the Curtain down, & carry it off with him to England! *

* I know but of two other Nations in the World, the American & the Russian,

The Fischplatz.

(Note N.) The right side Wall of this Cavern is covered with Stalactite formations for a breadth of about 50 feet, distributed like a theatrical decoration. On the left hand is the Great Cascade; a very large brilliantly white Mass, which seems to spring out from the upper part of the side wall, just below the roof of the Cavern.

The upper part of the side wall is studded with jutting Crags & rocky protuberances; over which, the Water percolating, becomes broken in its flow, & ^{being} distributed into a variety of small streams, tapering as they fall, are thus crystallised into long delicate sparkling Tills, ranging from 1 to 2 $\frac{1}{6}$ inches in breadth; presenting a very beautiful flowing effect, like jets of falling water, & extending downwards to the floor of the Cavern.

The upper part, or rather, the most prominent

among whom, an Individual might be found, likely to match this Englishman.

(J.O.)

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portion of the Fall, consisting of the largest & most beautiful masses of Stalactite formation, in their downward course, only reach to about half the distance of the above described sheet of Tills & jets; as in consequence of the ~~masses~~ ^{projecting} masses of Rock from the upper part of the side wall, they become crystallised before they reach the floor of the Cavern: the whole consisting of a series of projecting, overlapping, gradually-descending, sheets, or layers, of Stalactite concretion, of a highly interesting character.

(Note O.) At the time Schaffenrath's Guide was drawn up, a Cutting was begun here, in order to unite both ends of the passages, by which plan, this advantage would have been obtained; that after inspecting the End portion of the Caverns, the Visitor might be enabled to take a more convenient

of left fatiguing (return course, on quitting) Mount Calvary, by crossing the Mount Lovbl, & passing through these Side Passages thus united.

It is, however, much to be regretted, this Undertaking was abandoned when the work had been proceeded with, as far as about halfway between the two extremities (owing, it is said, to errors having been committed in the direction taken, & also from the tunnelling having been carried on at too high a level).

Should however, the junction of these two side passages ever be effected, as originally contemplated; it would be a very becoming act, that the portion comprehended by this new Communication, should receive the name of the Lovengreif Cavern; as a tribute of respect to the memory of an Individual who has done so much for the Adelsberg Caverns.

(Note p.)

The Gothic Hall, as it is

termed, is one of the most beautiful portions to be found throughout the whole of this Cavern, or indeed, in any other Cavern in all Carniola.

The form of this Hall is nearly circular; in the Centre is found a very large Stalagmite Mass, expanding at the top, stretching downwards like the Shaft of a Column, & surrounded by numerous smaller Stalagmites. Singularly shapeless blocks lie about in various directions. The sides of the Walls are richly decked with white, grey, & yellowish Stalactite Concretions, in round, arched, & extending Masses; springing upwards towards the Roof of the Hall, & shooting downwards to the floor, in numberless long, tapering points, & tubular, or reedy lines.

In a similar manner, from the Roof itself, hang down numberless Stalactites; many of which, passing over & along the projecting surfaces of the sidewalls, form various recesses and niches; — thus, all these peculiarities combine to

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes
form a species of natural decoration that can
hardly fail to remind the Spectator strongly of
the characteristics of the Gothic pointed-Arch style
of Architecture.

Throughout the whole of this Hall,
the bare limestone rock, of which it is entirely com-
posed, is nowhere visible; even the Basement
or floor of this vault, is entirely overlaid with a
crystallised Concretion of a brown colour.

(Note 9.) On the right hand side, are
to be found several small Pools, formed by the
Water-droppings from above, & from which, originally
a larger Basin or Reservoir was formed, & stocked
with a number of Protei, brought from the
Magdalena Grotto, for the inspection of scientific
& curious Visitors desirous of observing this sin-
gular reptile-fish; but at the present time,
however, not a single Specimen is to be found
therein.

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(Note 10.) The smaller Curtain
is a particularly beautiful formation, because
it still retains throughout, its original Purity,
& its dazzling Whiteness. Its pendant folds
are not so long as those of the Great Curtain in
the principal Cavern, and in its general appear-
ance, it more resembles a festooned upper Cur-
tain, or Hanging, used in theatrical Stage-
decorations. It is in breadth about 2 feet,
& in length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ feet; extending entirely across, from
right to left, & hanging downward, directly from
the Ceiling of the Cave. An exceedingly
delicate orange coloured striped bordering, composed
of lines varying in tone of colour, extends through-
out its whole length. The whole mass, in any
part, is scarcely one Inch in thickness; is entirely
transparent, and arranged in light, flowing
lines or folds.

The existence of this Curtain

was, I believe, unknown, until it was discovered by me, in Sept: 1852, just before leaving this Cavern which I had been inspecting.

My departure from Adelsberg also taking place on the same day, no opportunity occurred to me either then or since that time, of making a drawing of this charming object, a circumstance I greatly regret.

(Note S.) Notwithstanding the most industrious research, & with the utmost stretch of Imagination, yet in the Year 1852, I could not discover any traces of this celebrated Skeleton, so much spoken of, & upon whose existence at all, such great doubt has been expressed.

The Spot where it is stated to lie, is, at present, scarcely distinguishable; but numerous traces are to be seen all around, of the many & fruitless attempts that have been made to remove the

superincumbent Incrustation by which it is surrounded. Dr. S. however, gives it as his opinion, that the statement of so trustworthy & highly intelligent an Individual as Count Hohenwart, is not reasonably to be doubted; & seems to consider the fact of the Incident arising from an unfortunate Being who, losing his light, lost his way, & perished on the spot, — highly probable; as all escape from a spot of such difficult egress & ingress, under such circumstances, would hardly be possible.*

* It is much to be regretted, that more pains have not been taken to render the access to this Old Cavern, more practicable, & unattended with danger. Though the contents of this Cavern may not be so interesting as several others more recently discovered, the fact of its containing records of visitors in past Ages, several of whom, appear to have been persons of distinction in their

time, prove that this Cavern must, at a very early period, have been an Object of high interest. The Inscription Hall, as it has been termed, in my opinion, must be to Austrians at least, always an object of local Interest, & worthy of being carefully preserved, & much visited.

The circumstance of its being the Sepulchre of an unfortunate Being, who, in all probability, perished here, is ^{alone} sufficient to hallow the spot. Though this Object is no longer visible, from causes that can be accounted for, yet there is no doubt, if proper pains had been taken in the first instance, it might have been so preserved from the incrustations, by which it has been enveloped, as to display to view so much of the figure, as to render its existence a fact beyond all doubt.

In all probability, access to the Old Cavern was much less difficult in the 13th & 14th Centuries, than it is at present. A Spirit of Curiosity perhaps, first led to its discovery. Volpi in his Work on the Adelsberg Caverns published in 1821, & cited by D.S. is of opinion this Cavern served as a place of refuge in times when the surrounding Country was visited by hostile attacks.

(J.O.)

(Note t.) Until the Year 1816, scarcely any thing was undertaken in order to afford a convenient Access, throughout the Interior of this Subterranean Wonder of Nature. A few of the Inhabitants usually undertook the duty of Guides in this, as well as the Magdalen Grotto, for a remuneration which depended on the free-will of the Visitor; the Lighting the Cavern was effected by means of Chips of Wood, while the Course of the River was attempted to be rendered distinguishable, by throwing Trusses of burning Straw upon the surface of the stream, as it flowed through the dark precincts of the Cavern.

The journey of the Emperor Francis 2^d to Trieste, in the Year 1816, appears to have laid the foundation for a new Epoch in the History of the Adelsberg Caverns; first, by attracting the attention of the Sovereign to the

existence of such an extraordinary work of Nature in his dominions, & secondly, by rendering it an object of general curiosity, which it could not fail to become, now that this visit of the Head of the State had shown it to be deserving of personal inspection.

Subsequently, various Members of the imperial Family visited it, expressing great astonishment & delight at what they saw, & no doubt expressing a wish that so extraordinary a locality should be made an object of general interest to foreigners as well as to native Austrians.

It is well known that in the course of the preparations made in the Cavern (the limits of which, extended at that time, only to the great dome & the old Cavern) for the ^{reception of} Emperor Francis & his Consort, in the Year 1818, when passing through Adelsberg on their way to Dalmatia; the discovery was made, by one of the Guides employed by the district Treasurer, Joseph Ritter von Lowengreif, of a more extensive range of Caverns than had

hitherto been known. In the Year 1819, the Crown Prince Ferdinand, afterwards the Emperor Ferdinand Ist, visited the Caverns, which, by this time, had been more fully explored, & their long concealed Wonders made more accessible.

The general superintendance, & in fact, the Management of the Caverns, now assuming a high degree of importance as a natural curiosity, was undertaken by von Lowengreif, who, with the consent & assistance of the Authorities of the district, established an Entrance fee, appointed Guides, & undertook such works as were necessary in order to preserve the Caverns in proper condition, & secure their interesting contents, from depredation. This led to the organization of a local Commission of Management, & as the Lordship or Estate of Adelsberg was vested in the Crown, the District Authorities were enabled to assume the Charge of it, in right of their office as Guardians of State Property. Lowengreif retired

from all active direction in 1823, after having succeeded in establishing the above "Grotten Verwaltungs Commission", or Committee of general Superintendance, under whose controul the Administration of the Caverns was carried on for several Years with great success; their reputation annually increasing, visitors pouring in from all parts, & funds accumulating for the service of the Caverns.

At length, in the Year 1848, an Imperial Edict was published, declaring the Adelsberg Caverns State property; establishing the Commission under imperial authority, confirming & extending its powers, nominating its Officers, regulating the application of its funds, & investing it with every authority necessary to preserve and continue the Caverns in such a State, as so extraordinary a natural Curiosity justly merited.

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(Note U.) The Revenue of the Caverns had continued to increase to such an extent, that in the Year 1846, an Amount — after deducting all Expences whatever, of fls 4000, or £ 400, had accumulated. This was beyond all expectation; as at the time the Commission was established, it was presumed, the necessary expences that might occur for keeping the Caverns in proper condition, would fully absorb the Entrance Money paid by visitors; & that further funds in aid might, from time to time, be required. It is satisfactory to find, however, that not only the Caverns, as an Establishment, soon became selfsupporting, but that they have at length acquired a Reserve fund, which it is to be hoped, will go on increasing.

In the Year 1852, several important Works, such as a new Bridge over the River Poik,

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes
more convenient Access to the Tanz-Saal, &
other additions ~~where required~~ where required,
have been carried into effect, for the general
improvement of the condition of the Caverns.

The Austrian Government, having
some years ago decided upon establishing a
Rail Road from Vienna to Trieste, the line
of which will run in the neighbourhood of
Adelsberg; it is fair to presume, that when
this is completed, it will create a new
Era for the Caverns, by the great increase
of Visitors it will occasion, owing to the increased
facility of Access thus afforded. In consequence
of the distance of the Line of Road from the
town, it will doubtless be found necessary to
establish a Hotel near the Station, with
Omnibuses to convey passengers to & from the
Caverns, together with a well constructed and
convenient Road thereto.

Every improvement that can be

adopted, to give increased facility of Access to the
populous City of Trieste, where so many Strangers
& Travellers are continually assembling; must
tend greatly to increase the number of Visitors
to Adelsberg; as well as to add considerably to
the Reserve fund of its Caverns.

(Note V.)

The Kleinkäusel Cavern consists of a
main trunk passage or way, which extends from the entrance
to a distance of about 500 Yards, at which point it divides
itself into two long branches, termed by D. Schmidt the
Eastern & Western Arms of the Cavern. These extend
for a very considerable distance & take a very winding
irregular Course. The Eastern, or Poik Branch, as it is
termed by D. S. is in fact, a Water way or Canal formed by
the Poik in its subterranean Course through the depths of
the hollow mountains which range from Planina to Adelsberg,

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes

which form one of the peculiarities of Carniola.

This branch has been explored by D.S. for a distance of 2 miles & 1 furlong from the entrance of the Cavern. He considers it the most interesting of the two, though almost entirely under water, the depth of which, varies considerably, ranging from $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet to occasionally, as much as 31 feet.

The Western Branch is filled in almost every part with lakes or pools of water, produced by the influx of streams which take their rise in the neighbourhood of Planina, & have penetrated this branch, forming a junction with the stream in the eastern branch. The distance to which it has been explored is, from the entrance, about 1 mile & 6 furlongs; winding in its course considerably.

It will thus appear that the ground level or Base of this Cavern, is for the most part, submerged, interspersed with patches or reefs of hard Cliff or rock situated at various distances, & of various dimensions & heights above the water level; rendering an exploration of this Cavern in any part, impracticable except in Boats, which ~~are~~ frequently have to be carried

over the reefs & through rocky passages, to be lowered into the stream as often as required. In several instances, the labour & difficulty of this transit is so great, that the Boats have to be taken to pieces, transported in parts by hand, & refitted, as often as ~~the~~ the water occupies the breadth of the passage.

A reference to the Ground plan taken from D.S. works, (see Page 5.) will explain the character of this Cavern, better than any description can do; & also render it evident that the labour, trouble, & difficulty as well as danger, attendant upon a complete exploration of the Cavern of Kleinhausel, are such as will deter Visitors from attempting any inspection of it beyond the Entrance portion, which is that usually ~~visited~~ visited by strangers, & to which the recommendation given in Murray, must refer. In this part of the cavern are situated two large Halls, the first termed the Entrance Hall or Cave; and these are described by D.S. as very interesting, in parts beautiful, & worthy of examination. Visitors, however, seldom proceed further than

the first, & to do this conveniently, the assistance of a boat is often required.

The second, or Chorinsky Hall, which is both spacious & lofty, & far exceeds the first in every respect, cannot be reached except in a Boat.

Dr Schmidt gives a very full & interesting description of the Kleinhäusel Cavern, which, after that of Adelsberg, is the most extensive in all Carniola. According to his account it has been but partially explored previous to his time, no individual evidently, having the requisite means at command & it may be said, possessing the same local knowledge.

As his survey was intended to be a scientific one, undertaken with a view of tracing its course, & to ascertain if any connection existed with the other caverns in this neighbourhood; he was provided with assistants of ~~adequate~~ ^{adequate} ability, as well as every requisite that might be necessary to enable him to carry out his investigation to the fullest extent.

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He proves that the river Poik enters the Eastern branch at some at present, inaccessible point, & traverses the whole length of the Cavern on its eastern side, in its course towards the Adelsberg Caverns.

In the Western branch, the investigation of which, owing to the irregularity of its level & the frequent recurrence of pools of water varying in width & length, & obstructed with masses of rock & protruding Crags & reefs, is tedious, laborious, & occasionally dangerous; he has discovered its real termination, & also in its neighbourhood, the existence of a very large Lake or Sea, the width across of which, is about 187 feet, & in depth varying from 31 to 44 1/2 feet; a collection of Water in one spot, wider & deeper, than any yet met with.

He succeeded in discovering several interesting Stalactite formations, in this branch, to which he has given names, according to the practice adopted by the guides at Adelsberg, one of which, he terms, the Isis Column, a drawing of which he has included among his illustrations. I cannot see the appropriateness of the name,

it appears to me, more to resemble one of those vegetable fungoids, found in damp grounds, or at the base of old trees in woods, than a Statue column; but in these matters one must not be too rigorous in seeking for exact resemblance, some mark of distinction is the thing principally required.

But the crowning point of the whole of Dr. S's exploration of this branch of the Cavern, after having penetrated for some distance beyond the abovementioned Lake, is the discovery of a point forming, in fact, the termination of this branch, which led him to a spacious Gallery, as it may be termed, filled with Stalactite formations collectively more numerous, beautiful & extraordinary than any he had met with during the course of his researches. This spot he terms the Paradise of Stalactite formations, (das tropfstein Paradies.) He describes it in general terms of the highest Eulogy. One of its great charms is the perfect state in which every object appears, in point of form,

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colour & brilliancy; no injuries or depredations have taken place by visitors desirous of carrying off Reminiscences, nor are yet the dazzling tints or virgin purity of its Stalactites polluted & darkened by the smoke of Candles & torches thrust against their delicate undulations, in order to gratify the too prying Eye of vulgar the steps Curiosity.

Dr. S appears to have been the first Investigator who has reached this extraordinary spot; an Event of which he seems to be not a little proud, as may be judged from the manner in which he mentions this circumstance, & also of what resulted from it; his quitting the spot without having either injured, broken off or abstracted the smallest object whatever, & prevailing also upon all his Companions, to do the same.

The following Extract from his glowing description, will shew the extraordinary Character of some of its Contents.

"The attractive Beauty of this Paradise of Stalactites, is beyond all description."

Both the Floor & the Side Walls are richly incrustated with Sheets several feet in width, of sparkling Crystals, of tints varying from dark brown to the purest white. Previous to our Visit, no human Feet have ever penetrated into this wonderful Laboratory of Nature's most fanciful formations. All the interesting Objects that now crowded on our astonished View, shone forth in all the compleatness of their primeval Creation; in perfect form & full development; — undimmed in Splendour — unsullied by aught of Spot or taint.

Here are seen whole Groups of conical Stalagmites of snowy whiteness, ranging in proportions from the smallest tapering Point which sparkles on the floor — to the gigantic Mass which proudly towers aloft; & with these are contrasted various brown coloured Columns, of a Man's size in height & upwards, tastefully overlaid with delicate veins of white fillagree Work: — There, the Expanse of brown coloured

47 80 8
Wall attracts the eye in the shape of a rich tapestry (hanging), forming a background against which, starts forth to view, in bold & strong relief — the Colossal form in purest white, of a King, clothed in his Coronation mantle, who with Sceptre in hand, seems to declare to the astonished beholder, his regal State.

Near to the entrance stands a splendid white Shape, resembling that of a Cherub, armed with a fiery sword, & prepared, as it were, to defend from violation or injury, these sacred precincts, of which he seems the appointed Guardian.

We quitted this Paradise of Stalactites, virginal & intact in condition, as ^{it was when} we entered it.

Our very Steps we strove to arm with wary Caution, which our excited curiosity at all we saw rendered difficult; & retired bearing nothing with us but the most lively impressions of Astonishment & Delight. Had each Stalactite been provided with its guardian Sylph, or Dryad, to appeal to us,

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes.

we could not have obeyed with more consideration; feeling that we had intruded on a Sanctuary in which the Power of Nature had, for thousands of Years, held an uncontrouled dominion; exercising solely with the Elements, a perpetually creative Intercourse, not to be violated, or wantonly disturbed.

P Much of this description is, surely, the result of what the Doctor, in another place, calls, "Anstrengung der Phantasie," or a straining of the Imagination; yet still, after making every allowance for the predominance of this feeling, & the Doctor's natural exultation at having reached an unexplored & hitherto an unknown Spot; the extraordinary character of this Cavern fully entitles it to be considered as perhaps, the most astonishing yet discovered. (I.O.)

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The Puka Jama, or Poik Cavern.

(Note W.) While pursuing his investigations in the neighbourhood of the Magdalena Cavern, & at but a short distance from it, Dr. S. came upon an Opening from the surface like a Shaft of a Mine, or deep pit, of considerable width, the sides steep & precipitous, on which accounts, he considers, it has hitherto attracted but little notice, & is but little known. His attention appears to have been attracted towards it by hearing the sound of running Water far in the depth beneath him. He describes the descent to the bottom of this Shaft as both difficult & somewhat dangerous; requiring the aid of Rope Ladders & a boat, as it is filled with Water. On reaching this point, he discovered the mouth of a Cavern or subterranean Vault divided in the centre like a double Door, from which a Stream issued, which he soon discovered to be the River Poik in its subterranean Course towards the Adelsberg Caverns, after quitting the Kleinhäusel Cavern.

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes
He considers the introductory Shaft or Pit leading
from the upper surface, just described, as having
been originally one of those hollow funnel shaped
basins, so common in this Neighbourhood, the bottom
& sides of which, in the course of time, have given
way, owing to the action of water & moisture from
the upper surface, & the flow of the stream beneath,
while penetrating the interior recesses & hollow chan-
nels of the Mountain.

The Entrance to the Cavern, he has
named the Dolenz Pforte, or Dolenz Gate, out of
compliment to a friend who accompanied him. As
this Cavern appears to have been previously unknown,
Dr. S. has given it the name of the Piuka Jama,
or the Cavern of the Poik. He undertook the
Exploration of this Cavern strongly impressed with
the Idea that he had at last discovered the long
hidden connection of the river with the Cavern of
Adelsberg; & that by pursuing its course from where
he then was, at the Dolenz Gate, he should

ultimately find himself conducted by the Stream
into the Great Dome of the Adelsberg Cavern.

In this expectation however, he was doomed to be
disappointed. After penetrating the Poik Cavern
for more than 1050 Yards, further progress
appeared impracticable from the narrowness of the
passage & the disappearance of the Stream through
channels too shallow to admit of any kind of Boat.

82 88
He is of opinion however, that a connection
between the Piuka Jama & the Adelsberg Caverns,
will, at some time, under careful investigation, be
discovered; — the distance between the ^{Water} End Points
of both Caverns being, according to his Calculation,
not more than from 1450 to 1660 Yards. —

He describes the Interior as being very interesting
in parts, & as possessing several features of great origi-
nality, & seems to rank it on those grounds, as coming
immediately after Adelsberg & Steinhäusel.

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes

Remarks upon the Published
Engraved Illustrations of
The Adelsberg Caverns.

(Note X.)

As a supplementary Addition to his Book, D. Schmidt has published a set of tinted Lithographic plates, consisting principally of upper surface Views of the principal Caverns, with a few of their Ground plans, & a Map of the Country in the neighbourhood of Planina & Adelsberg.

He apologises for their introduction, by stating that in consequence of his not being able to meet with an Artist of sufficient talent, he was obliged to make the Drawings himself.

This Excuse appears to me, simply ridiculous. Had he chosen to have taken sufficient pains, I have no doubt whatever, Artists might have been

83 88
found either at Vienna or Trieste, quite competent to the task. At least, there were such at Trieste in 1838, when I was there; as the Water Colour Drawing I have introduced among my illustrations, of the English Garden, will satisfactorily prove. This Drawing was copied by the Artist himself, at my express desire, from an Oil painting which he had recently executed, for Sale. It was in consequence of my Enquiry after Illustrations of Adelsberg, subsequent to my visit to the Caverns, that I was informed of this Artist, & had an opportunity afforded me of judging of his skill. In point of general effect & good drawing, I consider this specimen, as an illustration, admirable; & far superior to any thing yet published of Views of Adelsberg.

D. S. has appropriated five plates out of the whole number, to Adelsberg. Of these, four only, are underground Views. In my opinion these are very indifferent performances; in design badly conceived, & therefore, as Illustrations, very

as well as the left hand, a series of Grottoes
far from satisfactory. No genuine Artist,
I think, would have presented a view of the Curtains
from the point the worthy Doctor has chosen to
draw it. The other Subjects are treated in too
fragmentary a manner; particularly the Gothic
Hall. On comparing this with his verbal descrip-
tion of it, its deficiency, as affording no general
view of this remarkable Object, is obvious at a
glance. The Artist of the English Garden,
would, I fancy, have produced a more truthful, as well
as ^{among} effective performance.

The view of the Stalagmite
Columns on Mount Calvary, called by him, "des
Mailander Dom", present not the slightest char-
acteristics of such Masses, as ^{they} are generally found in
the Cavern of Adelsberg. In Schaffeurath's drawings,
defective as the Engravings made from them, undoubt-
edly are, the Character of both Stalactites &
Stalagmites, is more naturally represented. Yet
the Doctor, in more than one place in his book, speaks

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contemptuously of Schaffeurath's performances; — des-
cribing them "as possessing as little taste as truth".

The Doctor should have confined his attention
entirely to underground subjects; in my opinion,
these alone, are truly interesting. Owing to their incom-
mon forms & development, & also from the general feeling
of curiosity towards the place & circumstances of
their Origin they must always excite; — they ought
to be fully & most accurately illustrated by Artists
of competent Skill, & not undertaken by Amateurs
such as Dr. Schmidt. The upper surface or topo-
graphic Views, forming the bulk of his Collection,
I say nothing of: — I consider them, in a work
such as that of Dr. S., of little or no value as
Illustrations. I conclude this Criticism on the
Doctor's performances, by observing, that to those
persons who have not inspected the Objects in the
Caverns, they will present no adequate impressions
of the extraordinary character of the Originals, &
consequently excite little or no curiosity towards them;

while to those persons who have visited the Caverns, they will offer no Reminiscences that will be either valuable or satisfactory. I have, however, added a few of them to my collection of Illustrations, as a Choice from Necessity, is a very different thing from a Choice that will satisfy critical accuracy; which is indeed, desirable, though not often attainable. A copious collection of good & trustworthy Illustrations of the leading Caverns of Carniola, is, & I fear, will long be, a Desideratum to be much wished for.

With regard to the Engravings accompanying Count Hohenwart's celebrated Work on the Caverns, published, I believe, about the Year 1830, executed from drawings made by Schaffenrath, which form the Illustrations to my Translation, & which are so sneered at by D. S.; — it must be frankly admitted, that as Engravings, they are for the most part, execrable. The slovenly, imperfect manner in which the plates are executed, & have been printed

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off, is too obvious to escape notice, & evidently indicate the work of an inferior, & as it appears, a provincial Artist; being executed at Laibach. Such being the case, in my opinion, it is a fair presumption Schaffenrath's drawings have not had justice done to them; a Concession which D. Schmidt, who boasts of the accuracy of his own drawings, might, with propriety, have made to his predecessor in Illustration.

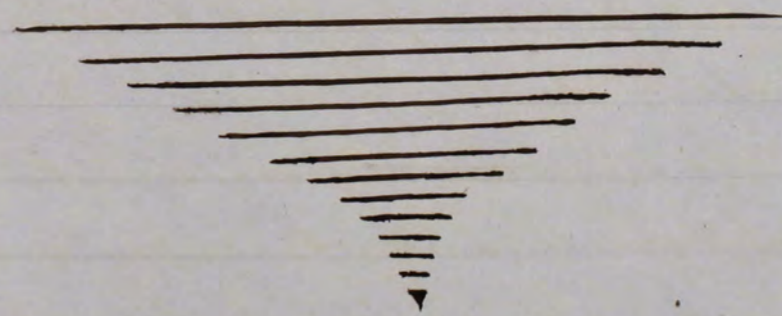
Schaffenrath's designs, bad as they appear as Engravings, possess at least, one quality superior to those of D. S. or any other that I have seen; that they present fuller Ideas of the extraordinary locale in which these remarkable Objects are situated. Notwithstanding their imperfections, they cannot fail to excite the curiosity of intending Visitors to the Caverns, while to those who have visited them, these Views will always serve to keep up lively reminiscences of that which such fortunate Individuals have once beheld; the singular excitement caused by the objects themselves might, without these imperfect Aids to memory, fade from

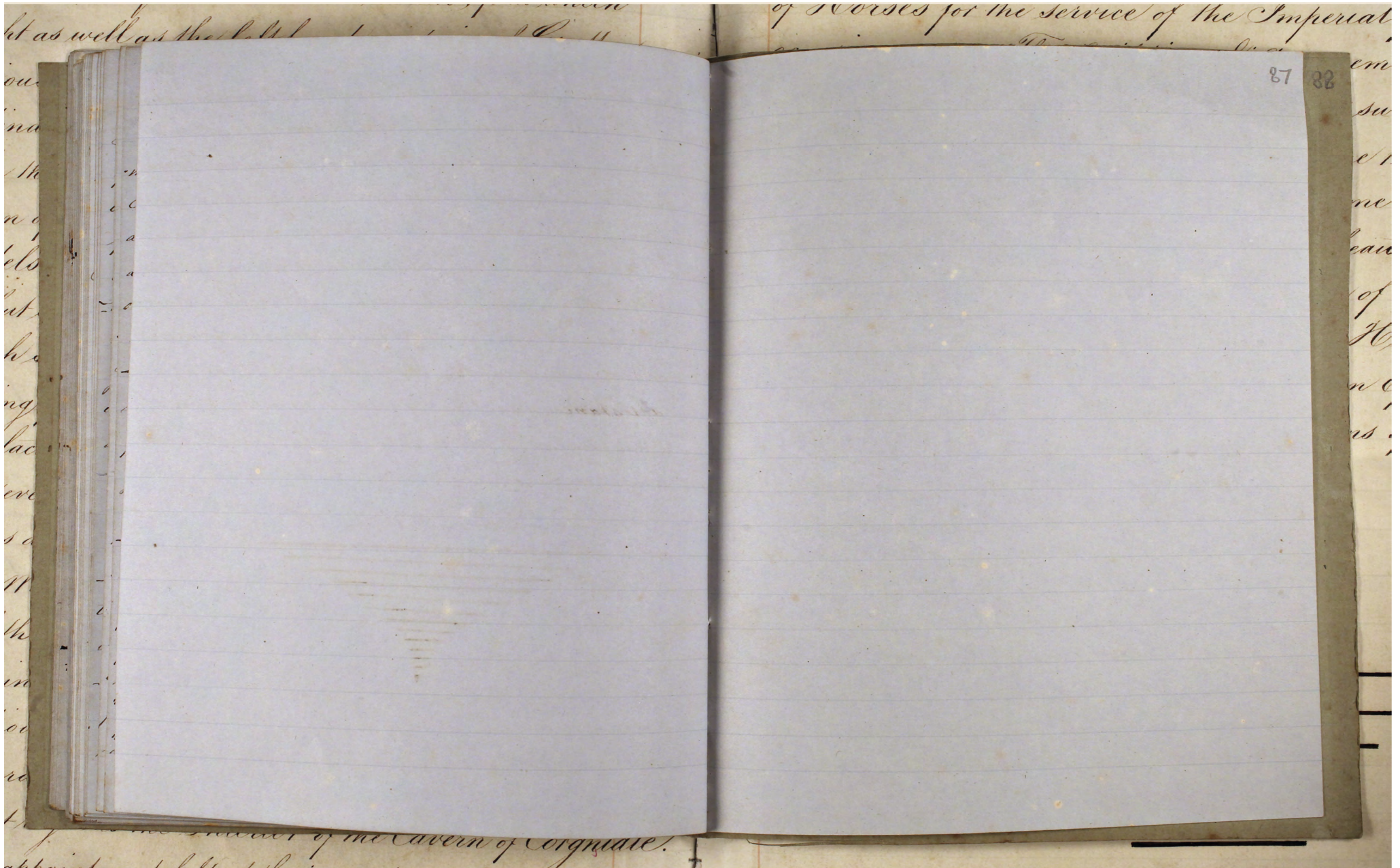
~~the Mind, like a Dream.~~

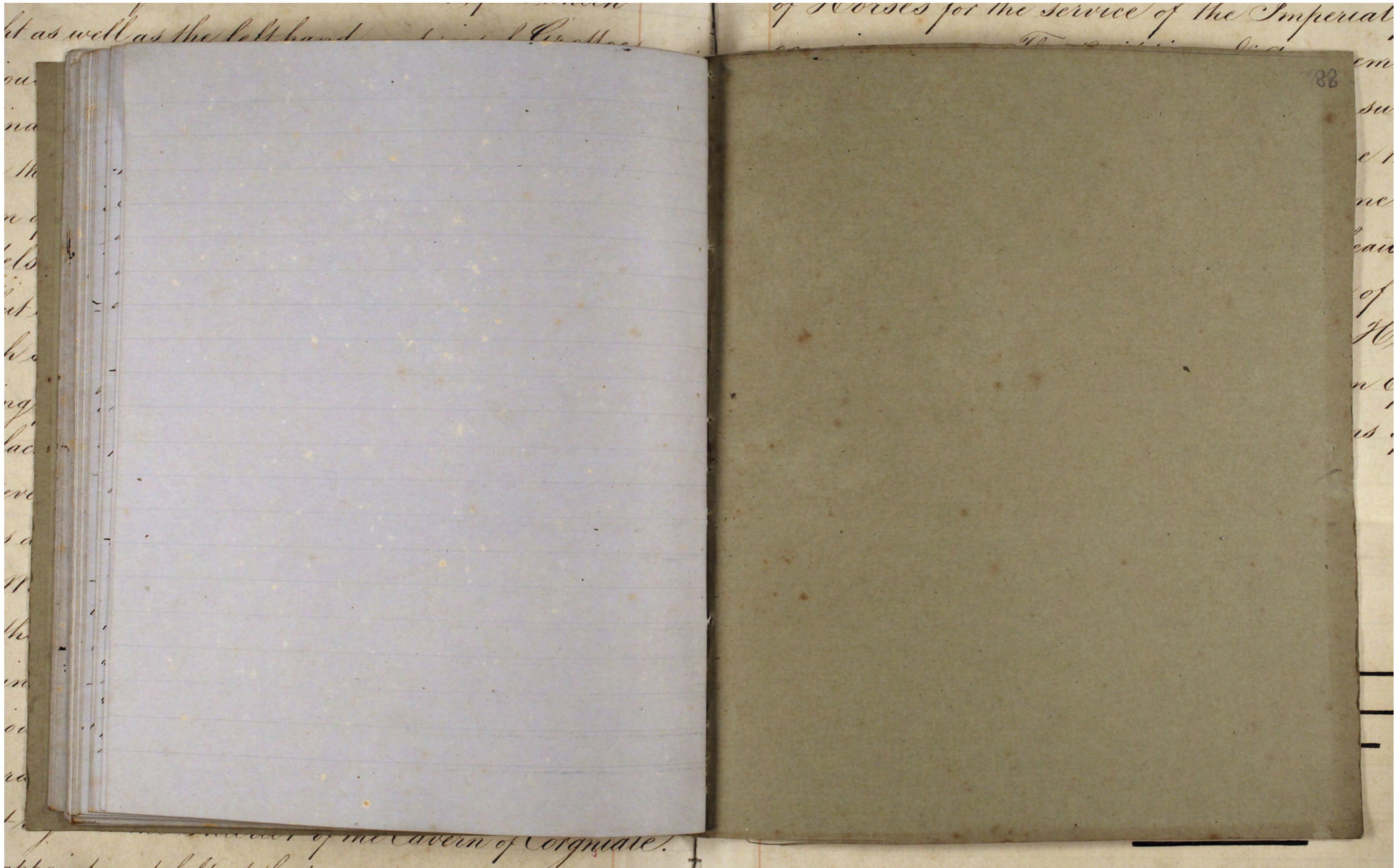
I shall conclude with extracting D^r's re-
marks upon the great difficulties attendant on making
correct Drawings in the Caverns. These (undoubtedly
are both just & true), but of which Schaffeurath, as well
as himself, is fully entitled to the benefit; — I will
only observe, en passant, — on comparing Schaffeurath's
drawings with those of D^r Schmidt — who is of opin-
ion that his own Sketches, as he calls them, — will
not shrink from a comparison with those of his
Predecessor; — that the worthy D^r exhibits
greater Skill in expatiating upon the difficulties
of such an Attempt, than in endeavouring to over-
come them; as the very partial & imperfect sketches
he has effected, clearly prove.

"It seems unnecessary to make many remarks
upon the great difficulties attendant upon making Drawings
in these Caverns. Frequent obstacles arise to obtaining
a convenient point of View from which drawings can be
made of Objects only imperfectly visible by torchlight, &

rendered dim & uncertain in their outlines by the inter-
vening Smoke & Vapour in which, more or less, in a
short time, all the distant Objects become enveloped.
It is also seldom possible to throw a sufficiently con-
centrated Light even upon the more immediate Objects,
so as to obtain correctness of Outline, & general propor-
tion of Parts: — in most cases, the Middle distance
can only be made out properly, by the introduction
of subsidiary Lights; these, however, to be of
any assistance, must be concealed from the view of
the Draftsman, & throw only a reflected light on
the parts required."

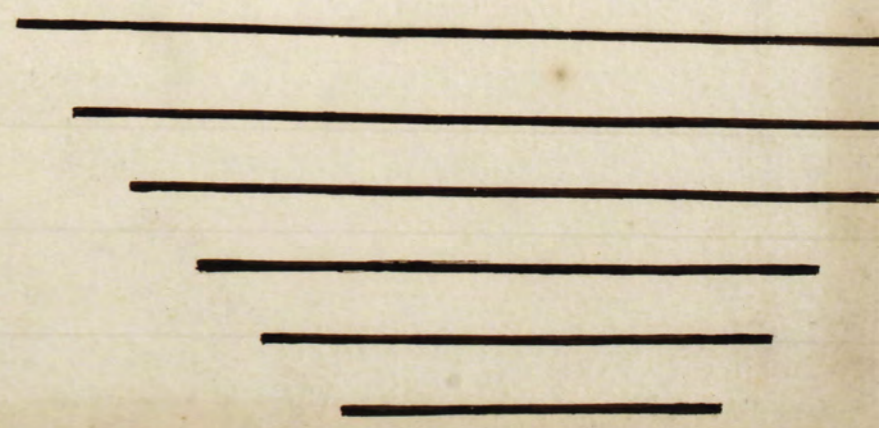






occasions. The Buildings & Arrangement
are extensive & well laid out, & the whole is so
Park, or Enclosure of Grassland, where
graze & take exercise. I saw here some
of pure Arabian Mares & Horses, of beau-
-metry; together with a numerous variety of
of Hungarian, German, & English
I never before had an
such a choice Collection of Specimens
Race.

FINIS.





ZALOŽBA
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