Black, among dyers, one of the five simple and mother colours used in dyeing. It is made differently, according to the several qualities of the stuffs that are to be dyed. For stuffs of a high price, as woolen cloth as ell and a half or an ell and a quarter wide, broad and narrow rattens, fine woollen druggers, &c., they must use a black made of the best wood and indigo, inclining to a bluish brown. The goodness of the composition consists in there being not above six pounds of indigo ready prepared to each ball of wood, when the latter, being in the tub, begins to call its blue flower; and in not being heated for use above twice; after which it must be iced with alum, tartar, or ashes of lees of wine, then maddered with common madder, and lastly the black must be given with gall-nuts of Aleppo, copperas, and sumach. As for more indifferent stuffs, such as small rattens, and flannels, as they cannot pay for the expense of madderering, it is sufficient that they be well boiled with wood, and afterwards blacked with gall and copperas. There is likewise jet suits black, which is made with the same ingredients as the good black, but without having first dyed the stuff blue.

German Black, called by some Frankfort black, is made with the lees of wine, burnt, washed afterwards in water, then ground in mills made for that purpose, with ivory, bones, or peach-flutes, also burnt. It comes from Frankfort, Mentz, and Strafsbourg, either in lumps or powder, and must be chosen moist, without having been wetted, of a fine shining black, soft, friable, light, and with as few shining grains as possible.

Ivory Black, otherwise called velvet black, is burnt ivory, which becoming quite black, and being reduced to thin plates, is ground in water, and made into troches, to be used by painters, and by jewelers, who set precious stones, to blacken the ground of the collets, and give the diamonds a tint or foil. In order to be good, it ought to be tender, friable, and thoroughly ground.

Bone Black is made with the bones of oxen, cows, &c., and is used in painting; but is not so much esteemed as ivory black.

Hart’s Black, that which remains in the retort after the spirits, volatile salt, and oil, have been extracted from hart’s-horn. It answers the purpose of painters almost as well as ivory-black.

Spanish Black is nothing but burnt cork: It is used in several works. It should be light, and have as few grains of sand mixed with it as possible.

Lump Black, or Lam Black, the forty smoke of rosin. There is some in powder and some in lumps, and is mostly brought from Sweden and Norway, and pays duty 1. 10s. 4½d. the hundred weight. It is used on various occasions, particularly for making the printer’s ink, for which purpose it is mixed with oil of walnuts, or linseed, and turpentine, all boiled together.

Earth Black, a sort of coals found in the ground, with which the painters and limners use to paint in siccro, after it has been well ground.

There is also a black made with gall nuts, copperas, or vitriol, such as common ink. And a black made with silver and lead, which serves to fill up the cavities of engraved things.

Carver’s Black, a black made with gall-nuts, four beer, and old iron, termed the first black. The second black, which gives the glofs to the leather, is composed of gall-nuts, copperas, and gum-arabic.