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COVER

The "Greene Lyon" devouring the sun. "One of the most famous of all alchemical illustrations," this picture first appeared in print in 1572, in a tract called Rosarium philosophorum. Newton owned a copy, still extant, included in a 1610 edition of the alchemical collection Artis auriferae. The lion, representing raw antimony ore, "draws in vivifying mercury, the living or 'actuated' character of which is symbolized by blood." [Reproduced in The Foundations of Newton's Alchemy, reviewed on page 689, with permission from the Stadtbibliothek Vadiana, St. Gallen]