

Georgius Agricola Encyclopedia Article

Georgius Agricola

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Georgius Agricola

1494-1555

German mineralogist and metallurgist, born Georg Bauer, whose *De re metallica* (1556) remained the authoritative text on mining and metallurgy for over four centuries. Lavishly illustrated with 292 woodcuts, this work presented the first detailed, accurate account of sixteenth-century mining practices. His series of treatises on geology and mineralogy proved influential during the formative period of these disciplines. Known as the father of mineralogy, Agricola in *De Natura Fossilum* (1546) attempted the first systematic classification of minerals.