

published a Latin treatise in which he gave excellent plates of a thousand fossils preserved in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. He was a valued correspondent of Ray, who quotes him as suggesting that the fossils enclosed within rocks might possibly be "partly owing to fish-spawn received into the chinks of the earth in the water of the Deluge," and as speculating "whether the exhalations which are raised out of the sea, and falling down in the rains, fogs, etc., do water the earth, to the depth here required, may not from the *seminium* or spawn of marine animals, be so far impregnated with, as to the naked eye invisible, *animalcula* (and also with separate or distinct parts of them), as to produce these Marine Bodies, which have so much excited our admiration, and indeed baffled our reasoning, throughout the globe of the earth."¹

¹ Ray, *Three Physico-Theological Discourses* (1721) p. 190. In the long letter from which these sentences are taken Lhuyd brings forward a number of shrewd arguments against ascribing fossil shells and plants to Noah's Flood.