

# NOTES AND QUERIES

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“Sir Clement Clerke and Coal in Metallurgy”  
P.W. King

Dr. Peter King has found evidence (see pages 40 and 41) that coke smelting began at Coalbrookdale in 1695 when Shadrach Fox leased the furnace. A minute of the Board of Ordnance of 30 November 1695 refers to ... ‘running iron with pitcoal...’

If Dr. King is correct and Shadrach Fox succeeded to smelt iron with coke in 1695, it answers and raises a number of very interesting points:

- 1) Is that why A. Darby I. went to Coalbrookdale from Bristol and not to nearer iron-works?
- 2) Was the information given him by Broseley Friends?
- 3) Is this why he started smelting with coke straightaway in 1709 and not starting with the known technology?
- 4) Is this why, having a 1707 patent for cooking pots, he did not patent coke smelting, a much more important breakthrough?
- 5) Did Shadrach Fox lose money by smelting with coke and A. Darby I. succeed because the latter was making thin sectioned cooking pots?

There is much work to be done on both the Quaker and metallurgical aspects.

*Michael S. Darby*