The article presents the person of Christoph Traugott Delius, 18th century scientist, author of the first university mining handbook, eminent expert in modernizing the austrian-hungarian mining, honoured with a high government post. Delius' books are discussed in the all-important Anleitung zu der Bergbaukunst. It is the first academic handbook of mining science covering a range of topics from geology, through exploitation technology, construction of mining machinery, economics and managing in mining, to the importance of mining for the State. The extensive report on opal noble mining in Hungary is especially worth mentioning here.