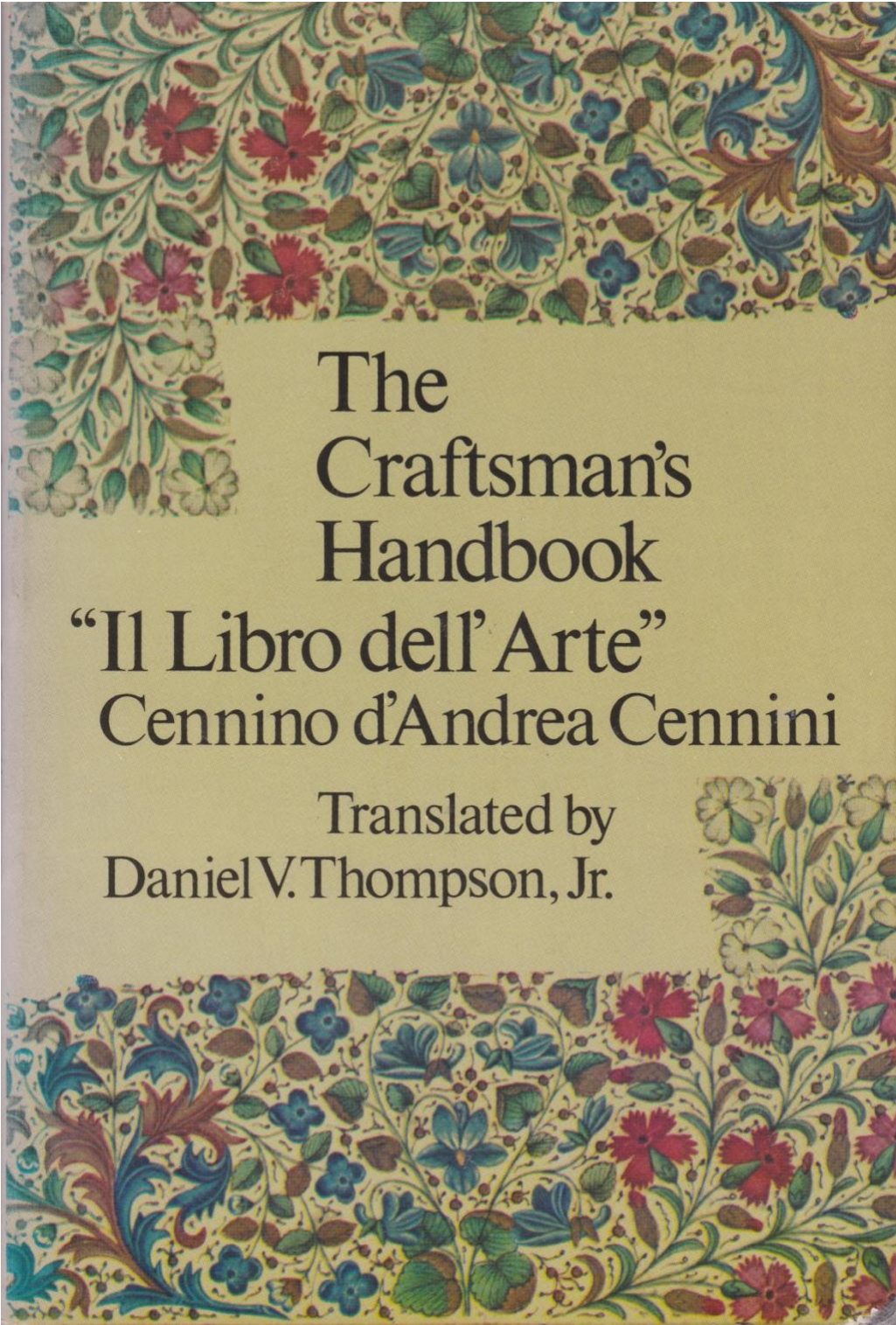


HOW TO MAKE GOOD AND PERFECT AND SLENDER  
COALS FOR DRAWING.  
CHAPTER XXXIII

Before going any farther, I want to show you in what fashion you should make the coals for drawing. Take a nice, dry, willow stick; and make some little slips of it the length of the palm of your hand, or say, four fingers. Then divide these pieces like match sticks; and do them up like a bunch of matches. But first smooth them and sharpen them at each end, like spindles. Then tie them up in bunches this way, in three places to the bunch, that is, in the middle and at each end, with a thin copper or iron wire. Then take a brand-new casserole, and put in enough of them to fill up the casserole. Then get a lid to cover it, (luting it) with clay, so that nothing can evaporate from it in anyway. Then go to the baker's in the evening, after he has stopped work, and put this casserole into the oven; and let it stay there until morning; and see whether these coals are well roasted, and good and black. If you find that they are not roasted enough, you must put the casserole back in the oven, for them to get roasted. How are you to tell whether they are right? – Take one of these coals and draw on some plain or tinted paper, or on a gessoed panel or ancona. And if you find that the charcoal takes, it is all right; and if it is roasted too much, it does not hold together in drawing, but breaks into many pieces. I will give you another method for these coals: take a little earthen baking pan, covered as described above; put it under the fire in the evening, and cover this fire well with ashes; and go to bed. In the morning they will be roasted. And you may make big coals and little ones in the same way; and make them to suit yourself, for there are no better coals anywhere.

*Il Libro dell'Arte*  
Cennino d'Andrea Cennini  
C15 Florence



The  
Craftsman's  
Handbook

“Il Libro dell’Arte”  
Cennino d’Andrea Cennini

Translated by  
Daniel V. Thompson, Jr.