

# **LEATHER FOR LIBRARIES**

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Leather for Libraries by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**LEATHER  
FOR LIBRARIES**



# LEATHER FOR LIBRARIES.

BY

<sup>and</sup>  
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*Library Association. Sound Leather Committee*

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CHAPTER I.

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History of Sumach Tanning  
in England, Degradation of the  
Manufacture of Leather, and History  
of the Reform Movement.

BY

E. WYNDHAM HULME.



## CHAPTER I.

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THE section of the leather trade to which this Handbook relates is that concerned in the manufacture of light leathers tanned with a pale tannage preparatory to being dyed. Bark and most other vegetable tanning substances leave a colour on the skin which cannot be removed without detriment to the durability of the leather; the retention of the colour, however, detracts from the purity of the final colour imparted by the dye. The reputation in the past of the sumach-tanned Spanish leather was founded upon this peculiar property of sumach of leaving the skin white, and on this point the wisdom of the ancients has been justified by the results of an exhaustive series of experiments conducted by the Society of Arts' Committee, which have given to sumach the first place in the list of tannages for light leathers.

The date of the introduction of sumach tanning into England may, with some show of probability, be assigned to the year 1565, when a seven years' monopoly patent was granted to two strangers, Roger Heuxtenbury and Bartholomew Verberick, for the manufacture of "Spanish or beyond sea leather," on the condition that the patentees should employ one native apprentice for every foreigner in their service. This stipulation indicates that the industry was a new one. Following the custom of the times, the supervision of the industry was entrusted to the "Wardens of the Company of Leather-sellers in London." Additional evidence of the use of sumach at this period is afforded by another patent to a Spanish Jew, Roderigo Lopez, one of Elizabeth's