



Traditional hand- grained Morocco goat leather not only for bookbinding, but for leather goods and boot making as well

- Natural grained, vegetable Sumac leave tanned, Morocco goat skin has been used in a variety of ways in Spain, France and England since 1600
- It was first imported into these countries from Morocco back in the 1300's
- More recently, since around 1800, it has been used in the construction of the 'leg' part of 'boots' and not only for bookbinding and leather goods making as well
- A particular boot which the leg part was constructed of 'Morocco' leather, is the 'Wellington' boot
- The whole point of using Morocco leather for the leg part of such a boot is its flexibility. In other words, it bends easily, and makes it easy to put on and take off a boot
- The other reason for using Morocco leather for the leg part of a boot was because Morocco leather was produced, in England, in a variety of different colors. Blue, Yellow, Red, Green, Brown, Black, and even white as a kind of Alum tawed subject
- These colors were first used for the legs of Wellington boots in London, in the 1820's and 1830's
- The historical average thickness of such Morocco leather which was used for this purpose, was approximately what we would now recognize as being about 1mm in thickness
- Historically, these range of leathers, different in color, but all of the same foundation of Goat's skin were produced and finished here in England. In London the centre of leather production was in the suburb known as Bermondsey
- Northampton was a small centre of leather production as well
- Fashions change, and so, over time, certainly since 1910, the colored legs of Wellington boots has disappeared and Bermondsey no longer exists as a centre of leather production
- What is worse, with the end of production of even Black Morocco leather in England in the mid 1960's, there is practically no one in England now who has even heard of Morocco leather
- As we say, the Morocco leather used was only used for the 'Leg' part of a Wellington boot. It was never used for the 'shoe' part, which we call the 'Vamp', the front part of the shoe or boot, or the 'Counter' which is the back part of the shoe or boot
- The use of Sumac as a vegetable tannin in the process of producing this type of leather was important. It could not be called 'Morocco' leather unless Sumac leave tanning had been used in its production
- It was always known as 'Morocco' leather for bookbinding and fine leather goods making as opposed to 'Moroccan' leather, in order to distinguish between Goatskin produced outside Morocco, and goatskin which actually came from the city of Safi in Morocco