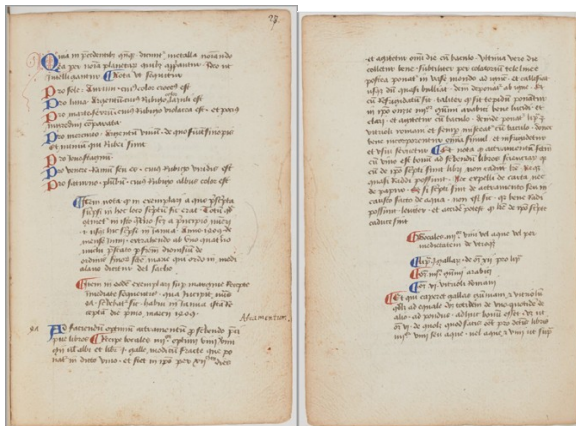


Recipe: black iron-gall ink
 Le Begue (1431), fol.28r,v¹



Diplomatic (LA)²

47. Ad faciendum optimum atramentum pro scribendo, precipue libros. — Recipe bocales iiiior optimi vini vermigii vel albi, et libram i. galle modicum fracte, que ponatur in dicto vino, et stet in ipso per duodecim dies, [fol. 28v] et agitetur omni die cum baculo, ultima vero die colletur bene subtiliter per colatorium tele linee ; postea ponatur in vase mondo ad ignem, et callefiat usque dum quasi bulliat ; deinde deponatur ab igne, et cum refigidatum sit, taliter quod sit tepidum, ponantur in ipso onzie iiiii^r gummi arabici bene lucidi et clari, et agitetur cum baculo ; deinde ponatur libra \ vitrioli romani, et semper misceatur cum baculo, donec bene incorporentur omnia simul, et infrigidetur et usui seruetur. Et nota quod atramentum factum cum vino est bonum ad scribendum libros scienciarum, que cum de ipso scripti sunt libri, non cadunt littere, neque quasi raddi possunt, nee expelli de carta, nee de papiro. Set si scripti sunt de atramento, seu incausto, facto de aqua, non est sic, que bene radi possunt leviter, et accidere potest quod littere de ipso scripture caduce sint

Bocales iiiii vini, vel aque, vel per medietatem de utroque.

Libra i. gallarum, de onziis xii. pro libra.

Onzie iiiii gummi arabici.

Onzie vi. vitrioli romani.

Et qui caperet gallas, gummam, et vitriolum, quodlibet ad equale, videlicet totidem de uno quotidem de alio, ad pondus, ad hue bonura esset, videlicet ut onzie vi. de quolibet, quod satis esset pro dictis libris iiiior vini, seu aque, vel aque et vini, ut supra.

Translation (EN)

47. To make good ink for writing, particularly for books - Take 4 bottles of good wine, white or red, and 1 lb. of galls, slightly bruised, which must be put into the wine, and allowed to stand in it for 12 days, and be stirred every day with a stick. The twelfth day it must be strained through a strainer of fine linen, and must be poured into a clean jar, and put on the fire to get hot, until it almost boils. Then remove it from the fire, and when it has cooled so as only to be tepid, put into it 4 oz. of gum-arabic, which must be very bright and clear, and stir it with a stick, then add £ lb. of Roman vitriol, and stir it continually with the stick, until all things are well incorporated together, and let it cool and keep it for use. And note, that ink made with wine is good for writing books upon the sciences, because, when books are written with it, the letters do not fade, and can hardly be scraped out or discharged from parchment or paper. But if they are written with ink made with water, it is not so, for they can easily be scraped out, and it may happen that the letters written with it will fade.

4 bottles of wine, or water, or half of each.

1 pound of galls of xij. oz. to the pound

4 oz. of gum arabic.

6 oz. of Roman vitriol.

And if you took equal parts of each, galls, gum, and vitriol, as much of one as of the other, by weight, it would still be good ; as, for instance, 6 oz. of each, which would be sufficient for the said 4 lbs. of wine or water, or of wine and water mixed as before.

¹ Le Begue, Jean. 1431. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France. Département des Manuscrits, MS Latin 6741', fol. 28r,28v. <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b10525796f/f1.item>.

² Transcription and translation in: Merrifield, Mary Philadelphia. 1849. *Original Treatises, Dating from the XIIth to the XVIIIth Centuries, [o]n the Arts of Painting*, Vol.1. John Murray, London: p. 68-70. https://books.google.nl/books?id=2xgGAAAAQAAJ&dq=mrs+merrifield&source=gbs_navlinks_s&redir_esc=y