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Historical recipes for preparatory layers for oil paintings in manuals, manuscripts and handbooks in North West Europe, 1550-1900: analysis and reconstructions

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Publication date
2014

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):
Stols-Witlox, M. J. N. (2014). *Historical recipes for preparatory layers for oil paintings in manuals, manuscripts and handbooks in North West Europe, 1550-1900: analysis and reconstructions*. [Thesis, externally prepared, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

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Appendix 16 Recipes for preparatory layers in the Winsor and Newton Archive

Capitalisation has not been adjusted to modern standards in this appendix, as the recipes contain many abbreviations and lists of ingredients.

Recipe book, recipe code	***Recipe title***
Recipe text	
'Omn Gathm No 02', 1824-44: 02P014L03	**Canvass**
– [Try] could the Marine glue – which is a compound of Inda Rubber & Shell Lac be employed in a diluted state for preparing canvass or could An artificial Skin be made to enclose ground colour in by means of it	
'Omn Gathm No 02', 1824-44: 02P026L14	
Mr Corbett Shrewsbury complains that… Panels absorb too much – size he often uses is 17 x 14	
'13', 1824-50, main entries 1850 (recipe date: 1849): 13P015L13	**Panel Canvass ground tried Dec 1849**
16 # White Lead grd in Oil 8 # Dry White Lead 2 Pints dry Plaster of Paris 11/2 # Grecian 11/2 Pints Oak Varnish was too brittle & chipped	
'13', 1824-50, main entries 1850 (recipe date 1850): 13P029L13	**Millboard Ground 1850**
40 lb Whiting 20 # Grecian 20 # Pumice Mixed with Aq to a stiff paste 5# glue made into stiff size	
'13', 1824-50(recipe date 1850): 13P030	**Millboard Ground 1850**
40 lb. Whiting) 20 # Grecian)	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
20 # Pumice) mixed with Aq to a stiff paste 5 #Glue made into stiff size	
'13', 1824-50, main entries 1850 (recipe date 1850): 13P039L01	**Millboard ground used by Gale 1850**
80# powdered Whiting 20# grecian powder / levigated fluid from the potteries 20# coarse Pumice powder 6# Sour Glue made into size by boiling with Aq or 5# Scotch Glue which goes as far as 6# Sour	
'13', 1824-50, unique recipe code: n.p.	**Size**
It is stated by Mr Hodge that Sulphate of Zinc or Acetate of Lead will prevent the decomposition of Size	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP022L01	**On Wednesday Night**
Whiting powdered 12 ¾ lbs Powder of Bath 6 lbs 7 oz Size abt the consistence of rather weak jelly 3 lbs Dry white lead 14 lbs 2 oz Span B. 3 lbs/oz Grd Bath rather damp with damp paper 2 lbs 8 ½ oz From which I took a quantity that while damp weighed 1 oz.2…8 ½ without the paper and when dry weighed Pot and size weighed 7 lbs 4 ¾ oz White lead and pot 8 lbs 11 oz B oil & can 3 ½ lbs Turps & csan 5 lbs 14 ½ oz & oil & can 4 lbs & ½ an oz A fine liquid color is prepared for maps &c. from bister	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP023L01	**Preparing Milbds**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Select dark cold boards as they are the best prepared – choose the side that has no ribs on it for preparing – mixt your colour of [text ends here] Let it stand a little time before using or it is liable to blister give the board a coat on one side and rack it to dry Rop says that Davy formerly prepared his Absorbent grounds by getting them up the same as Millboard grounds and while the oil color coat was yet wet, he sifted finely pounded & ground Flanders grit over it the artists complained of these ground that they were gritty Ro.. puts 6 & 5 coats upon the Millbds Davy puts 7 and 6	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP024L03	**1st Prepd for Milbds**
6 D Handfulls of powd Whiting 1D Handfull of Powderd Bath – To ½ D Pot of the mixtre of size as above mentd The size is put in first, then the whitg & gritt is added and l.t to stand till the whiting without motion is fully saturated, by which means the admission of air is prevented.	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP029L15	**Millboards –**
never use size the least stale for the fronts and use all the bottoms of the mixtures for the backs	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP032L16	**Millboards**
Milboards To 16x 12 – R used 6 coats on face & 5 on the back – to all above this size 7 coats on ft x 5 on back the 2 last coats on all the fronts and laid longways, all single size	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833,: REP036L11	**Oil Grounds**
3d worth of Soft Soap 3d worth Bees Wax Linseed oil – with plenty of dryers – and ½ a quarter of flour Formerly they used treacle instead of the soap – The canvass is rubbed down with pumice the 1st thing before any thing else is done to it.	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP037L15	**Ross: finishing color before surfacing Milboards**
¼ D Pot Single Size 4 D Handfuls Whiting 1 D .. Gritt W.W.	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP043L01	**[canvass & millboards]**
Canvass ./2 Quarter flour [Firkin?] of Size Rather more than 3 Treacle Too much whiting is injurious L6: Soap is used with the size in the 1st Canvass process Millboards L8 More.rit. [gritt?] is put to the last two coats than to the first ones and the returns are used L12 In Absorbent Grds a thin coat of fine clear parcht size is laid with a Camel Hair brush evenly over the grd after the face is given to bind it.	
'A relic of Old times 1833 P.01', 183?-1876, main entries: 1833: REP043L08	**Millboards**
More gritt is put to the last two coats than to the first ones and the returns are used In Absorbent Grds a thick coat of fine clear parcht size is laid with a Camel Hair brush evenly over the grd after the face is given to bind it R	
'Omm Gathm No 6', 1833-46, main entries 1846 (recipe date 1833): 06P009L10	**Ross's Milld Mems -1833**
Uses 3 Quarts Single Size & 2" double size for 1st and 2nd coats 6 Double Handfulls of powd Whiting 1 Do. Do. powd Bath Brick To 1/2 a double pot of the mixed size above mentioned -The size is melted & the Whiting and Bath Brick is added & left to stand till the whiting is fully saturated (not stirred at all) by which means the admission of air is prevented.	
'17', 1834-55, main entries 1853-5: 17P032L10, 17P033L10	**Canvass preparing –**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Suppose Canvass well dipped into a solution of Lac in Ammonia (see) and then dried – The Ammonia of course evaporates leaving a film of Lac only in the fibres of the cloth then if it were passed between rollers sufficiently heated to soften the Lac would not the threads be bound down & a nice smooth surface produced – When the Canvass is wet with the Ammoniacal solution of Lac it ought to be dried on a frame pulled tight – it might be done very quickly by means similar to the Lace dressers straining frame & run immediately with a long closet heated with steam pipes running in a serpentine manner all under the wet canvass and pulled up as it dries by the turning of the winch at the end of the dressing frame ( ) while this was drying another frame could be in operation & so on alternately – I think could be effected. I think that the priming of canvass by machinery employed to lay on the coats of colour might not be impossible If Lac be too brittle a small addition of a solution of Wax melted with the Lac might not prevent the solubility of the latter in the Ammonia – At all events Soap of Ammonia can be formed by precipitating almost any Alkaline soap by Muriate of Ammonia & the curd so thrown down is soluble in Ag. A small portion of this might be used to modify this "assumed" brittleness of the Lac & the ammonia leaving the solution also by evaporation, leaves the fatty matter of the soap capable of being softened by the heat The solution of Lac ought to be first bleached (I think) as it is rather too brown in colour & might stain the canvass to much [next line not in database because it appears on a page that holds sensitive information:] A solution of Lac in Borax when dry is also insoluble but I question whether this will soften sufficiently by the apllication of heat[...]	
'P.04. 1836- Private Copy of Processes. Vol 1st', 1834-93 (recipe date May 1874): P04P110L01	**Canvass Prepn for Photographic purposes - prepared [to] order for Messr Spencer Sawyer Bird & Co (Autotype Co.) RathbonePle. May 74**
1/2# Gelatine (Nelson's Flake) 3 1/4 Pints Aq- 4 oz Glycerine Balneo [till] dissd Take – 3# China Clay (Cornish clay) 1 1/2 Pints Water Mix & get into a smooth creamy state – then add the above gelatine Mixre (whilst warm) mixing perfects Now add gradually 64 grams of Chrome Alum which has been previous dissolved in 1/4 Pint of cold Water – Strain The mixture to be kept from jellying by keeping it warm – (in a pan of hot water) The Canvass is to be strained – pumiced & sized as usual – the above prepn to be laid on with a stiffish brush & smoothed by the use of a softening brush	
'P.04 1836- Private Copy of Processes. Vol 1st', 1834-93 (recipe date 1871): P04P140L01	**Mem.o regarding the Preparations used by W&N for Canvass Priming in 1871**
1st Colour composed of 8 Galls of 1st Color Oil ( ) 8 Galls Raw Linsd Oil	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	

Mix these two together
Take well dried Whiting (best Gelder's)
Rubbed th[..] a course wire sieve to the state of a roughish powder – use sufficient to work up the above oils into a Putty of pretty stiff consistency, yet not so stiff as to create any difficulty in getting it to mix readily with the other ingredients.
It is best in making the putty to half knead it – leave it a day and come to it again to finish it – the oil soaks into the whiting better
The whole of this quantity is taken to make what is termed "a pan of first colour"
Now take a mixture of 4 galls of the 1st Colour Oil (as above) and 4 Galls Linseed Oil and mix it intimately with the above named Putty and 56 # of Well ground Patnt Dryers of W&N/s make (……)
This forms the "1st Colour" Preparation
It should be kept from 6 to 12 Months, having a small quantity of Linsd Oil kept on the top of the Pan to prevent skinning- By being kept it acquires a glutinous quality, necessary to prevent oil of the 1st Colour from running through to the back of the canvass & causing it to have a stained appearance.
When the first colour is laid on the canvass 60 lbs of the above preparation is taken and

2nd Colour for Canvass- (P4P141L13)
Take 64 lbs of the Putty made as before directed
Add thereto 80 lb Ground White Lead (from Tub)
2 ½ lb Patent Dryers (finely ground)

Third Colouring for Canvass (P4P142L01)
(when finished by the trowel)
168 lb Grod White Lead
36 lb Putty (as before described)
1 ½ # Patent Dryer – (Watt's fine grod)
Thinned with Turpentine

'P.04.1836- Private Copy of Processes. Vol 1st', 1834-93: P04P140L01	**Memo. Regarding the Preparation used by W&N for Canvass Priming in 1871 [recipe first colour]**

1st Colour composed of 8 galls of 1st Color Oil 8 galls Raw Linsd Oil mix these two together
Take well dried Whiting (best gilder's) rubbed [Here] a coarse wire sieve to the [Hak] of a [wiylish] powder – use sufficient to work up the above oils into a Putty of pretty stiff consistency, yet not so stiff as [..] create any difficult, in getting it to mix ready with the after ingredients
It is best in making the putty to half knead # it – leave it a day and come to it again [..] [.....] it – the oil soaks into the whiting better

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
The whole of this quantity is taken to make what is termed “a pan of first colour” Now take a mixture of 4 galls of the 1st Colour Oil (as above) and 4 galls Linseed Oil and mix it intimates with the above named Putty and also 56# of Well ground Patent Dryers of W&N’s make This forms the “1st Colour” Preparation It should be kept [.....] 6 to 12 Months, [.....] a small quantity of Lins’ Oil kept on the top of the Pan to prevent skinning – By [beny] kept it requires a glutinous quality, necessary to prevent oil of the 1st. Colour from running through [to] the back of the canvass & [.....] is to have a stained appearance When the first colour is laid on the Canvass 60lbs of the above preparation is taken and	
‘P.04.1836- Private Copy of Processes. Vol 1st’, 1834-93: P04P141L13	**Memo. Regarding the Preparation used by W&N for Canvass Priming in 1871 [recipe second colour]**
2nd Colour for Canvass- Take 64lb. of the Putty made as before directed add thereto 80lb Ground White Lead (from Tub) 21/2lb. Patent Dryers (finely ground)	
‘P.04.1836- Private Copy of Processes. Vol 1st’, 1834-93: P04P142L01	**Memo. Regarding the Preparation used by W&N for Canvass Priming in 1871 [recipe third colour]**
Third Colouring for Canvass (when finished by the trowel) 168lb. [gro.] White Lead 36lb. Putty (as before described) 11/2# Patent Dryer – (W&N’s fine grod) [.....] with Turpentine -	
‘Omnm Gath No 12’, 1836-50: 12P012L18	**Canvas Preparing**
Try whether a solution of Shell Lac in Ammonia will combine with the size used for preparing canvass. so that when dry the sizing will be insoluble in water - if to this would be an excellent preparation as an underground for absorbent It might also be used to cement paper to thin linen as sketching cards for water colour painting	
‘Omnm Gath No 12’, 1836-50: 12P031L04, 12P031L07	**[costs of zinc white, prob. useful for canvas priming]**
Brown. University St. or some street near is agent for the french Manuf. Of Zinc Wte. Zinc White (see Brown as above) L B charges for the finest sort of Zinc White to us 1/- per lb. This he calls Snow White – for this he generally charges 1/6 lb For the 2nd quality they generally charge ?/? per lb dry. Or if ground in oil 30/. Per c.. . this might probably be useful in Canvass priming [added in adifferent pen by the same hand:] That grod in oil is not stated to be pure	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
'Omnm Gath No 12', 1836-50: 12P039L17	**Canvass preparing**
If canvass were boiled in a solution of Shell Lac in Ammo then taken out and dried – would it not be by this means rendered infurious to oil or to water	
'Om Gath No 01', 1838-44 (recipe date 1843): 01P018L01	**Oil Panel Colour 1843**
- [1] hot lead / tube broken up in Turps thick as paste.- Dryer - 1 lb. W B Litharge } 1/4 lb. Sugar Lead } finely grd in Oil 1/2 lb. [W] Copperas } 28 lbs. dry Grecn. Powder 1 Gall Oak Varnish 1 Gall Boiled Oil [.....] colours composed of 2 Bladders YellO. 1 [..] Ven Red - 1 [..] Bt Umber using as much as may be required --	
'20', 1838-58, main entries 1857-8: 20P009L01	**Estimate (assumed) of Cost of Canvass preparing**
Take[‘] a batch of 30 Francs Time – Putting [on&c] 6 days. – at 4/. 1..4. 0 [begining] 3 ,, at 4/- . 12 - 1st Cols. 2 ,, at 4/6. 9 - 2n Cols. 2 ,, at 4/11. 9 - Flatting 3 ,, at 5/. . 15 - Pums. Taking 2 ,, at 4/6 . 9 - 18 days 3,,18,,0 3,,18,,0 being the cost of the labour of 60[ps]. Of the average with of 7/8th * This sum divided by 60 makes the cost of 1 piece for labour only. 1[s]..4d per Piece (rather under) or [a..] 2 3/4 per yard Estimate therefore the 60 Ps as follows 60 Ps [..] 7/8 at 7d per yard = 10..10.0 Labour (see above) = 3.18.- Rent = 12 - Materials = 2	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	

[.....] ---------- 1
L 18,,0,0
this is exactly 6s a piece or s1/per yard prime cost of 7/8th [.....]

* 7/8 is the average for where wider [than] 38 in are done – one piece only in [put] on or frame

'P8', 1840-1878, main entries 1870-78 (recipe date May 4. 1871): P8P018AL01	**Canvass Preparations, A.D. 1871**

1st Colour
Take 8 Galls 1st Colour Oil [ ]
8 " Galls Raw Linseed Oil
mix the two together.
Take Dry Whiting in a powdered state by its having been rubbed through a sieve, sufficient to make the whole of the above mixed oil into a moderately stiff putty, (but not so stiff as to interfere with its mixg. readily with the after preparations) It is best to get the whole mixed & half kneaded together – lay it up in heaps till all done, as it softens and the oil penetrates into the dry particles of the whiting.
Then knead again till evenly mixed using as much whiting as necessary.
The whole of this is taken to make a pan of 1st colour.
Take also 8 Galls more of the same mixed oil and incorporate evenly with it
56 lbs of well ground Patent Dryers
Canvas Prepns Contind
(W&N's make.) Thin the Putty with this and it makes the pan of 1st Colour prepn. This should have age (say from 6 to 12 Months) that it may become viscid and so not stain "the backs of the cloths". It also improves in its drying properties.
For a Batch of Cloths take
60 lbs out of the oldest pan in stock, strain it for use.

Second Colour Prepn.
Take
64 lbs of the Putty
80 lbs Tub Lead (Genne Grod. White Lead in Oil)
2 1/2 lbs Patent Dryers (as above)

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Third Colour Prepn. (The finishg by Trowel) 168 lbs. Tub Lead 36 lbs Putty 1 1/2 lb Patent Dryers (same as before.)	
'P8', 1840-1878, main entries 1870-78 (recipe date May 4. 1874): P8P049AL01	**Canvas PrepnFfor Spencer, Sawyer, Bird Co. Ealing 121 May 4. 1874**
1/2 lb. Gelatine [Nelson's Flake] 3 1/4 Pints Aq: 4 oz Glycerine, Balneo till dissolved. 3 lbs China Clay 1 1/2 Pint Aq. Mix into a mooth cream, & add to the above solution of Gelatine, then add gradually 64 grains Chrome Alum which has been dissolved in 1/4 Pint Cold Aq- strain. The mixre to be kept from setting by keeping it slightly warm. To be applied to the surface of sized plain cloth with a stiffish brush & smoothed by the use of a clearer (softener.) In trying a 6 yards length of cloth, this prepn was difficult to work, it became set & lumpy or patchy on the canvas & we could not get an even & smooth surface.	
'P.07. 1842-1848 Private Copy of Processes. Vol 2nd', 1842-48 (recipe date 1847): 7PP239L01	**Absorbent Canvass Nov 1847 (Gale's)**
14 lbs Whiting 14 lbs Dry White Lead. sufft English Umber 1/2 lb Glue made into size using the greater part of it 8 lbs Treacle. 1 pint Raw Linseed Oil.	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
use the colour in a gellied state. 4 Coats taken off with Trowel must be well worked about till the cloth is thoroughly wet before taking off with the Trowel. Firstly. The Cloth is firstly pumiced as usual & then sized with very weak size & rubbed down The Treacle & Oil must be well incorporated before mixing with the colour. [There is a similar recipe in P.09, page 117. check spelling]	
'9', 1843-50: 9P024L1	**China Clay –**
so termed comes from Cornwall Pacher says its component parts are 20 Silica 60 Alumina pubent Pacher essay 345	
'15', 1843-50, main entries 1850-1: 15P002L16	**[china clay]**
China Clay – Steatites or Soap Rock From Cornwall (Talcum Smectis Lin) ocurs at Cape Lizard in Cornwall: Analyses by Klaproth of 100 Parts Silica 48 Magnesia 20.50 Alumina 14.- Oxide of iron 1 Water 15.50 99	
'15', 1843-50, main entries 1850-1: 15P035L01	**Canvass priming**
A solution of Shell Lac in water & Liq Ammonia may be used instead of size to rub down the threads of the canvass with, and when dry the threads do not swell by using any watery mixture because the solution of Lac is not soluble when it is dry – The Ammonia evaporating must, I should think leave the Lac in a pure state so that the canvass threads might be further smoothed down by the application of heat, perhaps by pressing the cloth through rollers heated by gas or steam Perhaps simply wetting canvass with the solution, then letting it dry & passing it through the hot rollers, with some kind of straining contrivance to pull it out to its full tension before the heat sets it If this could be done it would be an important step towards preparing canvass by Machinery	
'X2', 'from 1842' [X2 is a copy of 7P.], 1844-8: n.p.	**Absorbent Canvass No 1847 (Gales)**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
14 lbs Whiting ½ # Dry White Lead Sufficient english Umber ½ # Glue made into size using the greatst part of it 8 # Treacle 1 Pt Raw Linseed Oil Use the colour in a jellied state 4 Coats Taken off close with Trowel must be well worked about till the cloth is thoroughly wet before taking off with the trowel The cloth is firstly pumiced as usual and then sized with very weak size and rubbed down The Treacle and Oil must be well incorporated before mixing with the colour.	
'Omn Gathm No 04', 1844-6: 04P012L01	**Encaustic Cloth – Try –**
Take sized cloth then precip from a alkaline soln of wax the wax by means of an acid – and trowel on the wax hydrated paste when dry apply hot irons or perhaps dry friction – over which give a coat of flatting colour badgered – or perhaps mix a little grod white lead with the hydrated wax prepn or precipitate them together or try the wax prepn with a certain qy of sugar of lead used in the precipitating acid soln which throws down some carbonate lead in combination To afford a smoother hydrated paste for troweling it should be precipitated from very dilute solution	
'Omn Gathm No 04', 1844-6 (recipe date 1844 dec.): 04P016L04	**Panel Colour made up Dec 1844**
very good batch - came down very well & was not absorbent 11/2# Tub Lead broken up in Turps to thick paste 10# dry Grecian powder 1/2 gall quick Anime Varnish [(ANU)] 1# patent dryers finely grd	
'Omn Gathm No 04', 1844-6: 04P032L03	**Millboards –**
Try preparing with jellied or sat colour smoothing over each coat with the knife	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56: 9PP014L16?	**AHN's meguilp**
AHN's meguilp, slow drying by itself, quick dryer with Ox Zinc white & makes a hard ground when laid on sized canvass. Take ½ oz Bees' Wax when melted add 1 meg pot Turps, when well mixed & quite liquid add 1 meg pot of Dble Mastic vsh, stir well together, leave till cold before using. June 30. 1854	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56: 9PP015	**Canvas prepd for Oil painting without the use of Oil or Lead.**
Have your cloth well sized & rubbed down as usual. When dry Take Grod Zinc white (dry) (some of W&N's make) mix it into a paint by tempering it with sufft Meguilp (as made at page 14) (mem it soon sets & becomes hard & dry) Trowel this paint over your sized cloth & take off with a steady even pressure of the hands so that you leave sufft color on to give it a nice smooth surface & still show all the threads in a nice "grain". Next day found it very dry – white, & no stain whatever on the back of the cloth If you want to get a smoother ground, you can continue to coat up until the proper texture is obtained.	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56: 9PP015	**17] Canvas Prepd for Oil Paintg without the use of Size, Oil or Lead.**
July 6/54 Take a Roman cloth (raw cloth) strain on a frame and trowel a coat of white Color on, composed of Ox Zinc (dry) & AHN's Meguilp see p.14. mem. With more meguilp the white works softer, with more turps the white gets stiffer.-- the color was trowelled off close to the cloth so that the perfect grain was preserved, taking care however that color was well spread into the cloth, leaving no holes bare. next day the colored surface was hard dry very white & tolerably evenly laid. The back was not stained with any of the materials used for the surface with the exception of here & there some of the white color had worked thro' the cloth where it had been more open than in other parts. But even this was very slight & the color had become quite dry.	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56: 9PP016L01	**Expts for a substitute for Size in Prepd Canvass.**
Take 1 ¾ oz Borax refd 4 oz Orange Shellac 2 Pint Aq (boilg) Put into a jar in balneao & Kept on the fire till all is dissolved, strain This makes a Black prepn – very strong & when laid on the raw cloth stiffens it a great deal, it however makes it rather brown in tint- owing to the soln being very limpid when first put on the cloth; it comes thin & stains the back of the cloth nearly as much as it does the front however if this soln proves to be uninjurious to the cloth, the stain may not be of much consequence.	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56: 9PP017L01	**Canvas prepd for Oil Paints without the use of size, Oil or Lead.**
July 6/54 Take a Roman cloth (Raw Cloth) strain on a frame & trowel a coat of White Color on, compound of Ox Zinc (dry) & AHN's Meguilp see p 14. Mem with more meguilp the white works softer, with more turps the white gets stiffer. – the color was troweled off close to the cloth so that the perfect grain was presented, taking care however that color was well spread into the cloth, leaving no holes bare. Next day the colored surface was hand dry very white & tolerably evenly laid. The back was not stained with any of the materials used for the surface with the exception of here & there some of the white color had worked thro' the cloth when it had been more open than in other parts. But even this was very	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
slight & the color had become quite dry. [note there is another recipe for meguilp dated Nov.1854 on page 66 of this book]	
'P.09.1846-1854', 1844-1893, main entries 1844-56 (recipe date November 1847): 9PP117L06	**Absorbent Canvas (Geales) Nov 47 (357)**
14lbs Whiting 14 lbs Dry White Lead Sufft English Umber 1/2 lb Glue made into size using the greatest part of it 8 lbs Treacle 1 Pint Raw Linseed Oil –use the colour in a jellied state. 4 Coats taken off close with Trowel, mus be well worked about till the cloth is thoroughly wet before taking off with the trowel. The cloth is firstly pumiced as usual & then sized with very weak size & rubbed down The treacle & oil must be well incorporated before mixing with the colour.	
'P1', 1846-67, main entries 1846-50: P1P450L07	**White Flat.g for Canvas- a very superior-**
3 lbs Finely Grod Artists' White in Poppy Oil mix tog.r 4 lbs [ditto] in Turp.n	
'P.2.' 1848-65: P2P151AL01	**Extra Strong Patent Dryers 1528.For Canvas use.**
Materials Sul barytes 2-0-21 Sul Zinc 1-3-7 Sul: Lead - - 21 Powd Litharge 1-0-21 Grod White Lead 2-0 _____ 5-3-15	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Linseed Oil ad: lib: - It dried beautifully – the cloths being harder than any I have before seen. It discolored a little (rather too much for sale)	
'P.2.' 1848-65 (recipe date 1891): P2P086AL05	
27th April 1891 20 Gallons Linseed Oil 5123 Heated for 3 or 4 hours at 220o-230oF With the cover off. 2 lbs 8 .. Manganoleate (Theo T.rer & Co 12/2/91) Tied up in 4 separate bags of coarse muslin Put these bags in the hot oil and stirred for 1 hr: Put the cofer on and only took off to stir for 1 hr every 2 or 3 hrs: did this for 4 daysX and even then the dryer had not half dissolved so I stopped the process and put the oil aside. Xkeeping the temperature at 212o-220oF Used yp by Canvas Pepart.nd	
'P.2.' 1848-65: P2P126AL01	**First Colour for Canvass. Oct 28/56**
1493. Equal Parts of Putty made with Raw Linseed Oil & of [Do] [Do] [Do] Boiled oil foots bo.t Of S[...?] Turner Ho Oct 16/56. thinned to a consistence that will drop off from the stirrer, with a mixture of equal parts Raw Linseed Oil & Boiled Oil foots. It is to be kept several months before using to get tough. This made rather a dark colour to look it in the pan, but it lightens very much in drying on the canvas – and when the proper quantity of White Lead colour bottoms is added, the tint will do very well. Notes: 1493 These bottoms Bo.t of Turner were very good, containing 9 ½ lbs to the gallon (9 ¼ to the gallon is the weight of Linseed oil, but I reckon the extra ¼ lb of gallon on a/e of the dryers in it.) This article was of a blackish colour (24 a.. Manganese in it?) but dried very well & when dry on palette exposed to light the blackness went off & it became pale brown instead.	
'P.2.' 1848-65: P2P126AL16	**1493A. Another 1st Colour for Canvas priming Dec 23/34.**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Dry Sifted Whiting 4-0-11 Mixing Oil 23 galls = 1-3-11 Patent Dryers “strong = 0-2-22 Pure - 6-2-16 Juni Lagett 1 ¾ days mxing & Boy 1 ½ days 1493A Cont.d. Stains the cloth a little whn 1st made – wants age. Cost of batch. 4-0-11 dry whit @ 1/ 9”7”2 23 galls Oil @ 4/. £ 4”12”0 -2-22 Pat Dry @ 24/ 16“8 Lagett 1 ¾ days @ 5/ 8”9 Boy 1 ½ “ “ 1/ 1”6 ---------- £ 6”6”1 Or 19/2 . c.. all expenses.	
‘Varnish book No. 2 ’, 1850-1863 (recipe date March 30. 1853): V2P196L01	**Drying Jelly**
Varnish Botts treated with Linsd Oil Mch 30. 1853 Called “drying Jelly” 34 ½ Galls. Varnish Botts fresh from Cisterns of Oak & barriage 34 ½ Galls common Linseed Oil put together in steam bath & give 2 days good heating – The first day had a good deal of high pressure with the [….] & the next morning a good skin was on the surface of this oil – However I wanted to give it a good heat to see if I could thicken it, so I gave it another days steaming – When the dryer is allowed to subside without stirring for the last 3 or 4 hours it is in the cistern – it assumes a tolerably clear appce something like Dark Oak Vsh & when a little of this was put into a phial & stoppered it did not become [sizey?] The bulk dipped off from the dryer & impurities, appeared quite fluid while hot and a little of it tried in that state upon a board dries with a nice gloss next day – but a strong back on it – when became quite cold it assumes a gelatinous appce like s… size (call it A)	
‘Varnish book No. 2 ’, 1850-1863, unique recipe code: V2P225L01	**Canvass 1st Colouring**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
Made with the Drying Jelly described in page 196 under the head of Letter A This prepd A assumed a solid appce in the cistern – skims over with a thin hard skin very rapidly – in a day- It softens & becomes more fluid by working and is rather softer in hot than in cold weather I prepared a batch of 1st colouring for Canvass May 25. 1853 – as follows 18 lbs of the "Drying Jelly A" First weighed out – Half this quantity (fz 9 lbs) is made into a stout putty and beaten about till all lumpiness is out of it It takes abt 27 lbs of dry whiting Put this putty into a pan, add to it 18 lbs grod White Lead 2 ¼ lbs Red Dryers (fine grod) 2 ¼ lbs Strong fine grd White Dryers & the remaining 9 lbs of the Drying Jelly Beat them all up together, till perfectly mixed – then add (but not till then) 3 Pints Turps. Mix well & strain for use This is enough for a batch at G P or probably for one at K.J. (Mem it is so) For a Batch of Cloth for 1st coloring Cost may be reckoned thus	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date Dec 15. 1854): V2P334L01	**Strong Dryd. Oil**
Dec 15.54 Fit only for Canvass work see also p 296 70 Galls. Of Finest Linseed oil Had of CP in which had been standing in Cistern till used put into steam cistern the day before so as to be ready to start the 1st thing in the morning Get ready 35 lbs of W B Litharge, rubbed down to fine powder with strone & muller & sifted – the coarser parts rubbed down again till all will go thro a moderately fine sieve Get ready also 35 lbs Red Lead. Commense at 8 o'clock in the morning by turning off the low pressure, and turning on the stiff /high pressure steam & get the oil in the cistern up to 200o	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	

minding to put a nail so as to keep the outside valve a little open. This draws the steam up the sides of the istern.
Provide a convenient vessel. (a long shallow copper pan) with scoop mix the Red lead & powd litharge perfectly together – then sprinkle in these dryers by shaking the scoop over the surface (as tin varnish making, the assistance stirring constantly with stout ash stirrer – This stirring must be kept on continually to avoid the settling of the dryers stirring up from the bottom – The heat generally kept up should be about from 205o to 210o – the latter preferable – The process is to be terminated at 7 o clock in evening by taking out the stick & covered dr.. this cistern
This having been done on a Saturday stood till Monday before dipping? Off - ….. on Sunday – found it nearly bright – sample put in phial was abt the colour of N & H's Oak Varnish was bright enough for sending to painters &c – 10 Galls to . .[Heedum?] on the Monday, nice & free flowing –
The Megilp made with this oil (next day) tried with 1 ½ pts oil to 1 of Double Mastic & also equal part of Dr did not make a solid Megilp it was rottenish 10 Min after being mixed together – When it has aged .. not dra.. but what it will be all right in every respect – as 297 oil became
The processes being perfectly similar
One day's standing between – then dipped off yielded 65 galls bright
3" not bright
68 "
& abt 3 galls smeary bottoms …. …. The Tub
A little of the oil rubbed on the board was not dry next day – weather unfavourable

'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 recipe date Dec 21. 1854): V2P338L01	**Oil for mixing the Canvass 2st Colouring – Dec 21. 54**

Put into the Steam Cistern
10 Galls of the Dryd Jelly
Made March 30. 1853
Make it hot by turning on the steam (low pressure will do)
Add
10 Galls of Oil of the ½ & ½ tub
/ NB this dried as well as boiled Oil having stood over the dryers &c a good while without having had any fresh bottoms of raw Oil lately put on it – so that it may be considered as so much Boiled Oil)
10 Galls of the Strong Dryd Oil made on the 15th Inst. p. 334
Stirr all well together & gale intothis for Canvass Room sample in ..ia.
The browny opacity is owing to some of the oil of p. 334 having a portion of the dryer hanging in it and in the ½ & ½ oil out of tub a reddy tint was observable
This mixture by itself dries with a varnishy lustre - & was quite dry next morning after being rubbed on canvass over night – though of course with a slight

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
tack For the use of mixg the 1st colouring see next page	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date dec 23. 1854): V2P340L01	**Pan of 1st Colouring for Canvass priming dec 23. 54**
Math used Dry sifted whiting 4.0.11 Mixing oil of Dec 21/54 Page - 23 Galls Equal in weight to 1.3.11 Patent Dryers batch marked "Strong pure dryers for Geale"Ap 43 2.22 Cost 6.2.16 Time Lagett 1 ¾ days mixing Simpson/Boy 1 ½ days sifting white &c. Stains a little when first made wants age	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date May 16. 1855): V2P360L01	**1st Colour Oil for Canvass May 16. 1855**
12 Galls of the Drying Jelly out of Cistern made Make it hot by putting it into Steam Cistern & turning on steam When liquid add 10 galls of the Drying Oil Made Dec 15/54 p. 334 Also 8 Galls ½ & ½ Bottoms out of tub. A portion of Red Lead being in part of them but not enough to affect the colour of the 1st colouring When mixed together, put into Cistern, no straining required – Produced 30 Galls.	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date May 17. 1866): V2P361L01	**Pan of 1st Colouring for Canvass May 17.66**
7 Galls of the 1st Colour oil of Dec 21.54. p. 338	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
This was made into putty with Whiting – 9this used up all we had of that oil) Remainder of the putty & thinning down was done with Abt. 19 galls of the 1st Colour Oil Of May 16/55 – p 360 2 22 ½ of Patent Dryers June 54 – When just made dried very well, it was made abt. The right thickness for 1st colour Trusting to its becoming fatter & allowing a little turps to be mixed with it Cost of course the same as at p 340 & p 341 This has a larger portion of Drying Jelly in its comp. than the pan prepd – p 340 on acccount of the difference in the 1st colour oil – after being mixed a Month Gale tried it & approved of it very much	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date July 30. 1855): V2P375L01	**First Colour for Canvass Made up July 30. 1855**
The sifted whiting was made into Putty with the 19 ½ galls of oil called 1st Colour oil described in p 373- The remainder of the putty for filling up this pan, & also what oil was required for thinning it to a proper consistence was that done Augt 1.55 see next page – dryers as before This 1st colour when laid on a surface that did not absorb shone like a varnish colour, & dried very well Geale approved of it very much Date on cistern 3/8/55	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date August 1 1855) : V2P376L01	**1st Colour Oil Augt 1. 55**
Put 30 Galls thick & blackest Varnish Bottoms into steam cistern turn on high pressure steam when liquified – add 30 Galls of Raw Linseed Oil stirr wel together continue heat This was completed so far by abt 6 o'clk in the evening – the steam clock was left turned on all night - & the following morning the steam began at 5 o'clock – at 8 Hours it was well stirred covered down again & the heat kept on strong till abt. 6 o clock in the evening – when it was strained while hot into cistern Thick bottoms lef. 23 ½ lbs – only. Some of this was used for 1st Colour of July 30/55 The date on Cistern of 1st colour made with this oil is 3/8/55 When the impurities had subsided the oil dried next day with a lustre like varnish only tacky [Vertical in margin:] 5 Galls to Canvass Mks Aug 55	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date 9/4/1853): V2P401L01	**Boiled Red Hard Dryers (Oct 55)**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	

Made 9/4/53 - & got quite hard & insoluble
3”0 of this was taken up to Bell Ish to be softened
This dryer was composed as follows
1.1.21 varnish Botts
1.1.21 Powd Litharge
2.24 ½ Red Lead
1. 12 ¼ Sugar Lead
1.3.6 Linseed oil
5.3.1 ¾ Total in Stock
To this hard dryer was added Linseed oil sufficient to soften it by heating well up. Taking each time 47 ½ lbs of dryers & 4 Galls oil –The wholte quantity done was
331 ¾ lbs of the dryers & 294 # Linsd Oil – consequently the was nearly 625 ¾ # of the dissolved dryers abt as thick as Birdlime
Geale said that this did very well, it had however the quality of being difficult to get properly & evenly mixed with the colour – It required to be rubbed up either with Turpentine or better still with Turpentine colour – previous to being mixing with the body of the other prepns It gave a somewhat clingy feel to the colour which is not objectionable for Canvass colours provided it be not carried too far.
When some of this was wanted for 1st color for canvass, I melted a certain quantity over fire in back yard & when fluid added oil (see page 423) this made it easily miscible

‘Varnish book No. 2 ’, 1850-1863 (recipe date Jan 17. 1856):	**First Colour for Canvass**
V2P423L01	**Jan 17. 1856**

See 375 First colour
373 First colour oil
361 First colour
360 First colour oil
340 – First colour
A quantity of sifted whiting is previously made up with the First Colour Oil of Jan 12 1856 – p 424.- stirred up before taking it out – Sufficient Whiting is used to take up 16 Galls of this oil – This putty is put into one of the First colour tins which it fills to within inches of the top.
7 Galls more of the First Colour Oil (p 424) is taken and * 63 lbs of the Boiled Red Dryers (p 401) worked into the oil till all smooth & equally mixed – then add it to the Putty & heat the whole well up together

- The Red Dryers having got rather hard & difficult to mix – it was warmed up & 2 Galls of the First colour oil put to it to make it incorporate more freely – This fills the 1st Colour tin entirely & very satisfactory – dried well

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date Jan 12. 1856): **V2P424L01**	**First Colour Oil** **Jan 12, 1856**
23 Galls of the Thick dirty Vsh Bottoms out of Tub – put it into Steam Cistern add 23 Galls Linseed Oil – and apply steam heat for 3 hours the rest of that day Memm The Bottoms and 3 Galls of the Oil are put together then heated till it liquifies, when the rem of the oil may be added The next day the steam is turned strongly on so as to heat the mixture well, & continued the whole of the day stirring 4 or 5 times during the day, but having it from 4 o clock till 7 without stirring at all. Turn off Steam & allow the impurities to subside Next day – a dark coloured oil is the result – of which may be dipped off 32 Galls of "first Colour Oil" for Canvass This oil had a skin on it About 15 Galls of thick black liquid remains which is put into the Oil bottom Tub for using with Painters Grd colours. At the bottom off all the skins & other insoluble matters have caked at the bottom – then are use & may be thrown away When this is used it is stirred up in the Cistern before any is taken out I valued this with labour included at 5 per Gall – being capital stuff for Canvass 1st Colour (Hlh?)	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date Oct 16. 1856): **V2P443L01**	**Boiled Oil Foots** **Bot of Sam. Turner …** **Oct 16. 1856**
A Pipe was bought to try for 1st colour for Canvass. – it was of a blackish colour but dried very well – and when dry on palette exposed to light the blackness, went off and it became pale brown instead – the next weight was 8.1.22 or 946 lbs nett – allowing 9 ½ lbs to the gallon it corresponded with Lagetts measurement in gallon with 1 ½ Galls over for drainings 9 ¼ # is the weight of & Oil but I reckon this weighs 9 ½ lbs on acct of the dryers in it Intended to be kept for 1st Colour for Canvass	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date Oct 28. 1856): **V2P444L01**	**First Colour for Canvass** **Oct 28. 1856**
Equal parts of Putty made with Raw Oil and of Putty made with the B Oil Foots of Oct 16th Thinned to a consistence that will drop off from the stirrer with a mixture of equal parts Raw Oil & B Oil Foots The 2 Zinc pans filled for Stock Quantity of Math to make them Sifted & Mixing	

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
22 Galls Raw Linseed Oil 22 Galls B Oil Foots No dryers Time George 8 ½ days Geale 6 hours This made rather a dark colour to look at in the pan, but it lightens very much on drying in the canvass- and when the proper quantity of 1st Lead colour bottoms is added the tint will do very well	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date July 1859): V2P521L01	**First Colour Oil For Canvass July 1859**
In Steam Cistern Abt. 20 Galls of Thick Bottoms of Vsh Accumulations in Cistern from which all the bright & tolerably bright varnish had been drawn off Add 20 Galls Linsd Oil – stirr well … Turn on the steam onto cistern also 7 Galls (about) of various Oil Dryers From R P – Also 14 Galls (about) of thick black oil which had been used for an Oil bath many times it was blackish & thick as treacle 14 Galls more Linsd Oil – All heated up all day from 8 in the morning in steam apps giving it all the heat we could obtain keeping it on during dinner time – stirring it very often – till 7 in the evening – strained & put into cistern This 1st Colour Oil dried well & with a varnish like lustre. rather tacky – its colour was that of Ma..s Varnish – It is stronger in body than the B. Oil Bottoms – consequently it will not be proper to use to large a quantity of it with the 1st Colour for canvass. – I think the quantities used for 1st colour (page 526) are about right. … Memorandum In the event …. Not having any Vsh Botts of our own then might I the… be bought of Wallis – whose make of Varnish is similar to our own – or the Boiled Oil Bottoms might be bought of Turner the Turpentine Manufacturer instead	
'Varnish book No. 2 ', 1850-1863 (recipe date July 1859): V2P526L01	**First Colour for Canvass**

Recipe book, recipe code	*Recipe title*
Recipe text	
	July 1859
Have the pan 2/3rds full of Putty made of Whiting and raw Linsd Oil (Memm the depth of pan is 24 inches so that 8 # is left for the o. impe..t) In another pan put 60 lbs of the Red Dryer (that had been warmed & thinned with an equal quantity of raw Linsd Oil) Mix with the 60 # of Red Dryers by degrees stirring well in X9 Galls of the 1st Colour Oil (p 521) NB This makes an iron pan full to within all 1 ½ inches – don't put any water over it but allow it to skin over when wanted for use (in abt 6 Ms time) the skin is to be removed & water kept over it – Allowed to get abt 6 Months old before using it – When used must have a little Turps & Wt Lead added to harden it Xthis oil was too dark owing to the B Oil Bottoms	
'16', 1850-53, main entries 1851-3, unique recipe code: 16P029L23	**Miniature Ground.**
Collodium combined with oxide zinc	
'24', 1856-62, unique recipe code: 24P006L01	**Flower painting on Grecian or Marble Grounds?**
Could it not be executed on a marble ground that has been sifted on a distemper or size preparation to avoid the hability of turning yellow which it does when an oil ground is used – The painting to be executed partly with powder colours and partly with crayons – Zinc White to be used in both cases then, might it not be fixed by sprinkling with very weak Collodion instead of using the ordinary Spts. Wine & Mastic solution wich darkens the tints a little, which I expect that Collodion would not as it is not of an oily or resinous nature but deposits only a transparent Cotton fibre. …. Al.. the soft wash might be so done and fixed & then if the picture might have its finer lines & tints put on with ordinary watercolour for the size ground would be rendered impervious by the coating of Collodion which would have fixed it.	
'25', 1860-65, unique recipe code: 25P023L01	**Millboards.**
"Youngman" is the Agent for "Aingels" boards now made by Mr Morley whose place of business is somewhere near the Station of the Metropolitan Railway in victoria Street – Mr Ladell complained that he served anybody at Wholesale prices	
'28', 1867-70, unique recipe code: 28P019L1	**Gardeners Tallies –**
Gardeners Tallies – Could not a course canvass be coated with an aluminous soapy compound insoluble in Water but melting by application of a los heat using some O G with it to take off greasiness – To be written upon with ordinary ink & when dry the heat to be applied till the composition is sufficiently melted to fix the writing – could be made on Canvass preparing frames and afterwd cut to the required sizes (Waxcloth)	
'29', 1871-2, unique recipe code: 29P009L1	**[observations regarding restoration of a cracked painting]**
Valuable picture by ….. property of Lord … exhibited at the Exhibition of the old Masters 1871 – was full of cracks & the ground appeared as it if would chip off indeed, it had done so in one or more places To save it from further damage I would advise that a rim of wax be placed all round the picture which should be laid flat. Then pour over the picture a thin solution of good size or of Isinglass into which had been put a certain quantity of a solution of gum	

Recipe book, recipe code	***Recipe title***
Recipe text	
Senegal with a very minute quantity of Glycerine to prevent brittleness – the proportions to be determined by a few rials – leave sufficiently long on for the lipid to find its way under the cracks. Then raise the picture to a slight [melence] remove a portion of the wax rim and allow all superfluous liquid to run off – then let the picture dry – and apply carefully a warm iron to iron down the loose flakes of the ground using thin paper under the iron (probably tissue paper) – If the flakes of preparation are thus secured – all superfluous size may be carefully washed off from the surface . with a sponge and warm water not using too much water	