

# Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2005-04/msg00706.html>

---

- *From:* "I.E. Johansson" <IEJohansson@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Mon, 25 Apr 2005 21:31:29 GMT
- 

Mr Towe and all others,

I spoken to one of those who knows most of all about mineral crystals, wrote his dissertation about them as well as the reason for that some of you today have fluid crystal screens.

When I presented the case = presented what's been found in the ink he said that he would had expected that filtered washed fine sand(= mineral sand) poured on top of wet ink to give almost EXACTLY the result as been presented. The only thing he thought to be rare but existing in some mineral sands containing anatase crystals was that gold been found in it as well. That exists in some of the anatase mineral sand locations but it's rare.

You don't have a case anymore. I told you so some weeks ago and you will soon see it in writing. Your assumptions have fallen to pieces since there are two major alternatives: a) the ink contained anatase which some ink did in Medieval Age – look for China ink not Indian ink or Carbon ink. b) same result would have been found in ink after clean mineralsand been poured over the wet ink.

Inger E

"Ken Towe" <ken.towe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> skrev i meddelandet  
[news:1114457890.706688.122810@xx](mailto:news:1114457890.706688.122810@xx)  
> In support of his theory, Enterline wrote this....

- >
- > "The bible of conservators at that time (1950s) was the 1937 edition of
- > Plenderleith, which advocated the same treatment for parchment
- > manuscripts as for paper: regular household bleaching fluid\*, sodium
- > hypochlorite."
- >
- >
- > I have obtained a copy of Plenderleith (1937). Chapter IV addresses
- > practical methods of cleaning and repair. It is true that no specific
- > distinction is drawn (in the 1937 edition) between the methods used for
- > parchments and papers. However, Plenderleith does indicate that the use
- > of hypochlorite bleaches will cause problems for iron–gall inks. He
- > states (page 48) rather specifically: "Any signatures in iron–gall inks
- > will disappear unless they are protected beforehand." For protection,
- > he describes a local application of a celluloid solution in 5% acetone
- > applied to the print while it is dry and removed after the bleaching,
- > when it is again dry, by an acetone wash. Such a warning followed by a

## Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

- > specific conservation procedure renders the Enterline hypothesis
- > implausible. Clearly, if the ink must be protected during the cleaning
- > process, it cannot also be "contaminated" with anatase from some
- > blotting paper during the bleaching stage. The simple fact that
- > hypochlorite bleaches are damaging to iron–gall inks should have been a
- > red–flag to any conservator considering cleaning the Vinland Map.
- >
- > Enterlines goes on to write:
- >
- > Plenderleith described a bleaching method to be used on a document
- > whose ink was unknown and possibly fugitive.<sup>9</sup> The method avoids the
- > more usual procedure of immersion in bleaching fluid. Instead, a piece
- > of dry tissue paper is laid on the face of the document. Then one
- > brushes liquid bleach onto this paper and lets it soak through,
- > peeling away the tissue before drying occurs.
- >
- > However, Plenderleith says this (page 49) with regard to "fugitive"
- > prints:
- >
- > "In such cases the prints are laid face down on glass, and a pad of wet
- > blotting paper applied to the back for a few minutes and then removed;
- > after this the minimum of bleaching solution is applied to the moist
- > back of the print by a camel–hair brush. It permeates the paper, having
- > a mild bleaching action on the front."
- >
- > Again, if the document is positioned FACE DOWN on glass and it is
- > wetted with a blotting paper ON THE BACK, especially one that has not
- > itself been in bleach, the addition of anatase from the blotting paper
- > can never reach the ink!
- >
- > Enterline also wrote this in an asterisked footnote...
- >
- > "More recent editions of Plenderleith endorse the modern practice of
- > never bleaching parchment."
- >
- > Add the fact that bleaches harm parchments and and the Enterline
- > hypothesis for the Vinland Map becomes a candidate for the trash bin.
- >

---

- ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***

- ◆ *From:* Ken Towe

- ***References:***

- ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***

- ◆ *From:* Ken Towe

Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

- Prev by Date: [\*Re: The Vinland Map's Ink\*](#)
- Next by Date: [\*Re: Why no Exodus records in Egypt? Here's why?\*](#)
- Previous by thread: [\*Re: The Vinland Map's Ink\*](#)
- Next by thread: [\*Re: The Vinland Map's Ink\*](#)
- Index(es):
  - ◆ [\*Date\*](#)
  - ◆ [\*Thread\*](#)