

VALERIUS Nicolas

(1813 - 1899)

Diekirch

Patents (details)

1 - Nouveau procédé de tannage du cuir

LU patent	A031
Application date	4 March 1847

The patent application was processed in the usual manner and sent for examination to La Haye. Examiner LIPKENS having retired in 1846, the examination was conducted by his replacement, Dr SIMONS. ¹

On 18 July 1847 the *Chancelier d'Etat* in La Haye reported to Luxembourg:

... la demande du pétitionnaire n'est pas digne d'un accueil favorable, par les motifs, que les moyens proposés par lui sont déjà connus depuis 1843, où l'on en trouve la description dans le "London Journal of arts and sciences", volume 22 de 1843.

This publication is in fact a reference to a British patent (GB1842/9219) granted to Julius Bordier in 1842. ²

Nicolas VALERIUS was informed of the rejection of the patent through the *Commissaire de district* in Diekirch.

The description of the invention thus remained a secret, but the publication which formed the basis of the rejection gives an indication of the content of the application.

¹ This was not the only change in the patent granting procedure. The communication channels between the Luxembourg and the Dutch authorities had also been changed; in the "Valerius" case, however, they had not been respected. Dr Simons was involved in the matter which resulted in a rather nasty exchange of letters between Luxembourg and La Haye and prompted the Luxembourg authorities to decide to no longer have patent examinations conducted in La Haye but by the *Chambre de Commerce* in Luxembourg.

² GB patent 1842/9219. "This invention consists in a novel mode of conducting the process of tanning, and in the employment of certain mixtures or compositions, in place of the ordinary tanning liquid, by which means a very considerable economy in time, labour, and cost of material is effected. ... The skins and hides, after having undergone the operations of washing, removing the hair, and swelling, are submitted to the action of such metallic, saline, and earthy substances, as may be decomposed by the skins and hides, or may combine with the same. Among these substances, the one that seems preferable is the bibasic sulphate of sesquioxide of iron, or the basic red sulphate of iron, or the sub-sulphate of peroxide of iron."