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Leather
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Research
Association



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Sue Cooper of LASRA delivers Procter Memorial Address at SLTC Conference



The keynote, Procter Memorial Lecture: “From sheep yards to SNP chips – the changing face of rawstock research”, was delivered by Dr Sue Cooper of the New Zealand Leather & Shoe Research Association (LASRA) during The Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists (SLTC) annual conference which took place at the University of Northampton on April 23.

Dr Cooper outlined LASRA’s work on preventing and eradicating defects on sheepskins caused by a range of issues such as cockle, white spot, rib and pinhole as well as scratches and pitting on cattle hides. She also

outlined some interesting and on-going research at LASRA on looseness and told the audience that breed, sex and use (beef or dairy) were significant factors in the prevalence of looseness. Bull hides for the beef industry generally contained the least amount of looseness, which supports previously held industry opinion on the subject.

According to one who was there, the most interesting element of Dr Cooper’s presentation was related to the relatively new technology of SNP chips (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms – or genetic markers), which have been attached to around 300 sheep and measure many facets of each animals life such as parentage, breed, sex, weight and, subsequently, can be used to measure skin quality and related back to each animals genetic code. The work is ongoing and trials have been scaled up on an additional 500 sheep.

Sue was also presented with her parchment Fellowship Certificate by SLTC President, Steve Trantum.

Excerpt from *internationalleathermaker.com*

LASRA Director joined panel to discuss problems related to chrome in leather



“Chrome VI and the future use of chrome in leather manufacture” was the subject of a panel discussion at the recent SLTC conference. A topic that is a major concern to many brands was discussed and a plan to tackle the issue head-on in the future was put forward.

A panel of leading global experts discussed the on-going problem of chrome VI in leather during the 119th Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists (SLTC) annual conference in Northampton on April 23.

Chaired by Reg Hankey, CEO of UK and Ethiopia based tanners and finished leather products makers, Pittards the panel looked at several problems in the supply chain with related concerns with chromium. Tanners are regularly asked by their customers about this issue of chrome VI in leather products.

Dr Dietrich Tegtmeier of Lanxess, put forward a 10-point action plan for tanners and brands/retailers to adopt to limit the formation of chrome VI (toxic) from chrome III salts (non-toxic) used in the majority of leathers made today.

Simple steps such as using chrome salts, fatliquors and retanning agents from reputable manufacturers will reduce the risk of chrome VI formation and by using an antioxidant retan such as mimosa or other veg extracts or other agents can reduce the possibility of formulation CrVI in leather. Other tips include avoiding the use of bleaching agents and ensuring that any unbound chrome is properly fixed in the tanning step. Tegtmeier recommended that leather buyers should look for LWG (Leather Working Group) rated tanneries to be sure of best practice in the industry.

“We can conclude that if tanners sensibly manage the tanning process well then the leather will be OK. Not managed properly, it can lead to problems”, summarised Reg Hankey.

Another area of concern is the continuing problems relating to a reliable test method for detecting CrVI in leather. Current methods often provide false-positive readings.

Professor Tony Covington explained that funded research starting in September is going to “throw the kitchen sink” at trying to resolve this issue and every available and suitable analytical method will be tried to resolve this issue. “The main issue is that the current methods are based on wet chemistry and that leads to inaccurate results. We want to find once and for all a dry test method that is reliable and reproducible”, he said. He listed using techniques such as magnetic resonance, x-ray deflection and neutron diffraction as just some of the areas to try.

Finally, on the topic of allergies to people from chrome, Dr Tegtmeier, said that all the evidence showed that chrome was inherently safe for the vast majority of people and less than 1% of test group (which was carefully selected because they had a high risk to allergies), showed any negative reaction to chrome. He said that in the general public at large the risk is very low and very few people show any hyposensitivity to chrome tanned leather.

In conclusion, Hankey said that the industry was working very hard “to fill the remaining gaps in our knowledge” but in general the use of chrome in well made leather is safe. “This is a global problem and the leather industry has a collective interest in solving these important issues”, Hankey concluded.

The panellists were as follows: Chair: Reg Hankey, Pittards; Dr Dietrich Tegtmeier, Lanxess; Professor Tony Covington, ICLT – University of Northampton; Mr Geoff Holmes, LASRA; John Hubbard, SATRA; Kerry Senior, UKLF

From *internationalleathermaker.com*

How one woman is solving the achilles heel of the women's shoe industry



Can you imagine being a woman who can only find mens shoes in her size? That was the reality for Staavias founder Gustavia Lui, who would have to wear jandals to work due to the gap in the market for women with size 11 feet and up. However, the 28-year-old from Manuwera, South Auckland has since created her own line of shoes specifically for women with “plus-size” feet called Staavias. *The Register* chatted to Gustavia about her journey.

Tell us about your experience shopping for size 11 shoes. Do many retailers cater to these larger sizes for women? Did you ever have to buy mens shoes?

Yes, most of my shoes are men’s shoes right now. I’m wearing some sports shoes right now and they are men’s size. I have a number of samples of my own brand so I’ve been happy wearing those shoes lately. My feet are actually size 11.5 so I don’t fit the length of size 11 or size 12. On top of that, my feet are very wide and large all over so I can never find a great or even good fit.

I stopped shopping for shoes altogether about a year ago now, ever since I started getting samples done. Not many women I know dread shopping, but when it came to shoe shopping I’d dread it so much. I take my children with me to help me find a size 11 or bigger. We would scatter around the store and quietly hunt for them as if our lives depended on it. I would walk in to a store and ask – what is your biggest size? Size 10 is the common answer, but occasionally there would be a size 11. I used to try on any size 11 but after a while I knew just by looking at it if it would fit or not – this would save me the embarrassment. The most embarrassing thing ever is when the sales person is literally standing there watching you try it on. You are then forced to admit that you have large feet and then the staring comes and they would tell you stories of

other customers in the same boat. A number of years ago before I started my journey or even thought about it, I remember writing to some shoe companies to increase their size range and I never got a response.

What was the journey like starting your own footwear business in New Zealand? Was there much help available?

Starting a footwear business in New Zealand is not easy, especially when you have no experience in the industry yourself. I will be honest, there is very little help for newbies in the industry especially in New Zealand, sad to say. I sent so many emails to different people and organisations, made so many phone calls but I would never get a response. There is one guy named Peter from a company called LASRA (NZ Leather & Shoe Research Association). He gave me awesome advice earlier on in my journey, he tested my shoes and put me in touch with some other awesome people. I have a lot of support from LASRA. I did get some help from a number of amazing people in New Zealand who are in business in general but I must say that I found much more help in Australia & the US when I attended business workshops. I came across so many successful people, some my age, who started with nothing and are now making millions of dollars and they would even be willing to help me personally.

How did you go about creating Staavias' first range?

I met some people in the US who told me about some platforms to specifically reach footwear designers. Sadly, I cannot draw, but I can visualise something and explain it, I just need help with putting it on paper. I put an ad out on this platform and received many responses. I explained to each designer who we are, what we're about and what it is I was looking for and they each came back with their own interpretation. I also looked into their backgrounds and working experience and I was able to get my list of about 16 down to just two and from there I chose our designer. With our designer being in London, it was great in terms of upcoming fashion trends and her prior experience with huge leaders in the footwear industry. We worked together to bring my vision to life. We created 9 different designs with two or three colour ways each. However, we didn't end up launching all of them, but will be dropping designs throughout the year. I decided to name my very first collection after my 2 sisters Noah and Gardenia and also my nieces, seeing as I have no daughters – Serenity, Cassidy, Hailey, Elizabeth, Evania, Savannah and Selena.

On Staavias site, aside from bigger shoe sizes being a point of difference, you also mention your focus on building genuine relationships with your customers and making a positive difference in their lives. How have you built this close relationship with customers and what are you doing differently to other stores?

As I mentioned earlier, I understand the importance of building genuine relationships with people including my customers. I encourage them to email me directly and they do, so we have a lot of interactions going on in the background. I have been able to connect with my customers on a much deeper level and not just a seller/buyer relationship. As I am a very honest and transparent person, I have no problems sharing my hardships and experiences with them personally. I guess this helps my customers know me personally and make it easier for them to trust me. I really enjoy that, everyday my inbox is taken over by personal customer

emails and I make time to reply and enjoy a good conversation with each one. We are always working on ways to improve our customer experience with our online store. I am very passionate about certain things e.g. helping people out of poverty mentality, healthy relationships, eliminating child trafficking and helping women out of forced prostitution. In the near future I plan to set something up and will be giving my customers the opportunity to have their say and help me build this from scratch so they too, can feel empowered that they played in part in helping others through our brand.

Where are Staavias shoes being sold now?

Right now through our online store, our Amazon and Etsy stores are being set up at the moment so we will then have the three different online stores.

Staavias is online only for now, but have you considered opening your own store?

Yes, definitely! I would love to open a pop up store later this year in Auckland and hopefully a few other cities.

Are you looking for NZ retailers to stock Staavias shoes?

Yes, absolutely! I have a couple of huge retailers in New Zealand approach me for a partnership so I will be meeting with them when I am back in Auckland. However, I am always on the look out for retailers in NZ to stock our brand. I'm also open to a partnership with clothing or handbag stores. I have so many customers asking me if I have a store they could visit so I know this would totally be an advantage for any store who partners with us.

Check out Gustavia's website <https://www.staavias.com> or Omrika's interview with Gustavia [Omrika interview](#)

Excerpts from *theregister.co.nz*

New Lundi Smart-Boots Heat Up Through Phone App



A new Kickstarter campaign for Lundi boots has launched to help fund the startup brand’s mass production of stylish, tech-enabled footwear that can reach up to 100 degrees Fahrenheit from the touch of a smartphone synced via Bluetooth. Through Lundi’s technology, the heat is distributed evenly around the feet. The built-in thermostat “regulates the boot so that it’s maintained and never exceeds the temperature for a person’s safety and comfort,” said co-founder Katie Lefkowitz.

The black leather footwear is compatible with iOS and Android smartphones and takes less than a minute to reach a desirable heat, depending on the temperature outside.

The battery is concealed in the boot’s one-inch heel and can run continuously for up to eight hours. Recharging, done through a wireless system, takes less than two hours.

The shoes range in women’s sizes 6-12 (U.S.), available for preorder through Kickstarter for \$349 (a pledge fee), but the purchase and shipping — expected to be in November — won’t go through unless the manufacturer receives \$55,000 in pledges by May 5.

To see a demonstration, click [Lundi Boots](#)

Richie McCaw's sports shoes all for a good cause



Richie McCaw accepted the award for the All Blacks at the Laureus Awards yesterday sporting an ugly pair of sneakers. His former coach, Steve Hansen, was wearing a pair too. But if you thought the pair had sacrificed good style for comfort, you were wrong. The Kiwis – winners of the Team of the Year – were promoting the event's #SneakersforGood campaign.

The Laureus World Sports Awards supports Laureus Sport for Good which uses the power of sport as a tool to combat challenging social issues for underprivileged people and communities. Since its inception, Laureus Sport for Good has raised over €100 million and supported 150 global projects to tackle violence discrimination and disadvantage.

From scout.co.nz

A factory in east London is the last in the UK to still produce handmade baby shoes using a traditional ‘lasted’ technique



Designer Vivienne Lopez’s business Vevian operates from a small Leyton warehouse. Here the leather is cut by hand, then stitched before being pulled over a cast to be lasted, and finally inside socks are added. She said: “The most difficult part of the process is the lasting. Our most popular shoes are the patent shoes – and that’s the most difficult leather to work with.

The production process may be lengthy but it has also proven to be a hit with international customers, who “love the made in Britain aspect, especially with the Royal Family and baby George”, says Lopez. Lopez stumbled upon the idea for her business when on the hunt for a unique pair of shoes for her daughter eight years ago: “There were lots of great shoes but nothing I would want to keep, so I decided to use an old technique which is no longer around.”

See video link [Vevian](#) here

From *Evening Standard UK*

Anatomic & Co. to launch 'social shoe' that blocks smartphone apps



Anatomic & Co. aims to help people digitally detox from their smartphones. The footwear manufacturer has developed a “social shoe” that disconnects the wearer from mobile apps and social media platforms. Designed in collaboration with University College of London, the tech-enhanced line will launch via Kickstarter in the summer. “We love social media, but not when it gets in the way of real life and relationships,” the brand said in a statement.

Dubbed In Good Company, an apt name for the footwear, the shoe line utilizes technology inside the rubber sole via Bluetooth that’s controlled from the user’s smartphone app. Among the features, users have the option to block individuals and apps at specified times throughout the day. The goal is to make “the world a more sociable place in which to live” through face-to-face communication by restricting digital distractions, the brand added.

Find out more about this kickstarter [here](#)

From *footwearnews.com*

A 1,500-year-old mummy wearing 'Adidas' style shoes discovered In Mongolia



The rare and ancient discovery of a mummified woman in Mongolia has been overshadowed by an obsession with her footwear, as people liken the 1,500-year-old boots to a pair of Adidas sneakers.

Archaeologists unearthed the female's remains on the Mongolian side of the Altai Mountains, more than 2,800 meters (9,186ft) above sea level. Alongside the ice-preserved body, a number of artifacts including an iron kettle, pillows, cotton coats, and a sacrificed horse were found in what is believed to be an ancient Turkik burial site.

Researcher B Sukhbaatar told the Siberian Times that the grave is a “*rare phenomenon*”. “*It is the first complete Turkik burial at least in Mongolia – and probably in all Central Asia... These finds show us the beliefs and rituals of Turkiks,*” he said.

From www.rt.com

IULTCS Incoming President's Message



Dear Leather Technologists and Chemists (IULTC) from the global leather world

For nearly 30 years of my professional career I have worked in R&D related functions in the chemical industry. After nearly 2 decades of passionate work relationships in the leather business, it is now of course a great honor for me to be elected to take over the responsibilities and duties as the president of the International Union for Leather Technologists and Chemist Societies for a period of 2 years. There is a long list of 33 famous and important former presidents in the archive. Especially in the last 10 years, when I was actively supporting the IULTCS, my predecessors have done a great job and have significantly further developed the roles and responsibilities of IULTCS in the global leather industry. Therefore, it is a great honor for me to take on this responsibility.

On my way to the last Congress in Brazil I was asked by a well-known and highly respected tanner, what are the most important topics on my agenda for the next 2 years; this made me think and here is a summary of my thoughts:

I am a person, who was and who is always fascinated by technology, science and new genius approaches to change processes to something better. I'm fully convinced that only through innovation the serious problems of today's world can be solved and converted into truly sustainable solutions. Innovation is core in our modern world, and it is extremely important that an organization like IULTCS exists, which orchestrates and incentivizes R&D work in the field of leather. I will definitely support any effort which contributes in this direction.

I always felt it is important and supportive to have a professional network with experts in order to exchange

the best available technologies. Our union can be proud of the long history of XXXIII congresses which are evidence of this statement. I am personally very thankful because I had the opportunity to participate in several of such events and I must say I have not only built up a fruitful network, I have even significantly further developed my own understanding of leather processing technology throughout these events. Each congress inspired me in my day-to-day work and has taught me many important lessons. So I believe there are several reasons, why providing a continuation of scientific global networking opportunities is one of the most important functions of IULTCS. I'm looking forward together with our friends from India to make the upcoming congress in Chennai in February 2017 another successful event.

I also feel that it is an important task for IULTCS to ensure the establishment, acknowledgement and maintenance of a decent level of science and best available technology for our industry. We all need to insist that sound science is always the base of the seemingly endless tightening of regulatory and non-regulatory requirements. Our well organized commission work delivers the input for our argumentation and defines the base for scientifically assessed specifications and ISO standards.

Finally another role I see as extremely important for our Union. Everyone knows the leather business is often in the spot light of bad media campaigns; this is not good for the image and reputation of our industry. Therefore, we have to observe the media actively and organize a correct, proportionate and scientific response to misleading or even false information. Here we are part of a team. Already several years ago we set up an alliance with the International Council of Tanners (ICT) and the International Skin, Hide and Leather Trading Association (ISHLTA). We all align in the Global Leather Coordination Committee (GLCC) for a quick and professional response. I'm a strong supporter of this and I will try to make sure, that we further develop this partnership

As mentioned before, due to the work of my predecessors, I take over the president role of a well-organized industry body. It is my wish to continue this important work and initiate some new activities. I sincerely hope that I can count on the support of all members, thank you.

- **IULTCS President**
- Dr. Dietrich Tegtmeyer

Launch of 24 karat gold shoes worth \$20,000 grabs limelight in Dubai



A unique pair of handmade leather shoes made of 24 karat gold were the highlight of the opening day of Leatherworld Middle East.

The custom-made shoes, launched by A&E Fashion Group, were produced by an Italian master craftsman who holds the world patent for the design. They are also available in platinum, palladium and silver finishes with a price tag of \$20,000 (18,000 euros) for a gold pair, \$22,000 (20,000 euros) for platinum and \$3,400 (3,000 euros) for the silver-finished pair.

The Middle East's only dedicated leather industry trade show ran from 26th-28th of April at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre with HE Butti Saeed Al Kindi, Second Vice Chairman of Dubai World Trade Centre, inaugurating the exhibition. Leatherworld Middle East 2016 featured 70 exhibitors from 16 countries, all of which have their sights on a Middle East and North African (MENA) leather market.

According to analysts Euromonitor International (EMI), MENA leather trade was valued at US\$4.6 billion in 2015, including the import and export of raw hides, skins, furs, and leather articles such as saddlery and harnesses, travel goods, handbags, wallets, apparel, and accessories.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) holds a 67 per cent share of that figure, with US\$3.1 billion worth of exports and imports last year, spearheaded by the UAE (US\$1.2 billion of imports and exports), and Saudi Arabia (US\$497 million). Saudi Arabia is also a leather manufacturing hub, with a production turnover of tanning and dressed leather (clothes, footwear, and accessories) valued at \$346 million in 2015. EMI estimates that growth will be nearly eight per cent over the next four years to be worth \$373 million by 2019.

The UAE meanwhile remains a haven of luxury spending; last year, with the retail value for the UAE’s luxury leather goods market, including wallets, bags, purses, handbags and accessories, growing 14 percent year-on-year, valuing \$413 million, with this expected to nearly double in size by 2020, when the market will be worth \$800 million. See [Show highlights](#)

From *alarabiya.net*

Die-cutting systems “no longer able to keep pace”, Lectra claims



Cutting technology provider Lectra has said that leather car-seat and automotive interior producers are ordering “such high volumes from tanners” that traditional die-cutting systems are “no longer able to keep pace”.

In its newly published annual report for 2015, Lectra said it had taken note of the high-end vehicle market witnessing the strongest growth in the automotive industry. This is significant because high-end vehicles tend to use more leather than regular ones.

Tanners need to transform their production processes and to make “significant productivity gains”, the technology provider said in the report. It added: “Leading tanners need solutions that are more flexible, improve hide use and accelerate time to market.”

In recent comments, Lectra chief executive, Daniel Harari said the company intends to invest more in developing advanced cutting solutions specifically for leather as part of its latest research and development plan.

He said he believes Lectra is “beginning, after 15 years, to understand leather” and beginning to see the next level of challenges that its customers’ leather-cutting requirements can present. “Our whole idea is to bring intelligence to the cutting room,” the company’s chief executive said.

From *leatherbiz.com*

Meet the world’s largest luxury leathergoods manufacturer



Korean handbag manufacturer Simone claims to be the largest producer of luxury leathergoods in the world.

The Seoul-based company is a distributor of luxury leathergoods in the Korean market for a number of high-end global brands, but it also makes plenty of products of its own.

Speaking at the 2016 Condé Nast International Luxury Conference in Seoul towards the end of April, Simone director Joowon Park claimed that her company makes 20 million handbags per year and that its workforce has a combined total of 3,500 years of experience. It also runs a museum in the South Korean capital dedicated to handbags.

Parent group, Simone Holdings, is reported to be in the process of acquiring automotive leather producer GST AutoLeather.

Image courtesy of Simone Fashion.

From *leatherbiz.com*

Design innovation bags success for textile graduates



It's called Llane, and with the help of an innovative New Zealand technology called Wool Fresh, has the potential to be the final answer in women's design bag accessories.

The tote bag, designed for women with a New York City sensibility, is versatile enough to carry gear as diverse as gym equipment, shoes and laptop without losing shape, thanks to a newly developed fabric designed with support from design students at Massey University's College of Creative Arts.

The odour absorbent Wool Fresh fabric is natural, breathable, anti-microbial and self-cleaning. It is already earning plaudits via crowd funding having raised more than \$30,000 of a \$50,000 target to help bankroll the manufacture, production and marketing of the revolutionary tote bag.

Master of Design graduates Amy Blackmore, Annabelle Fitzgerald and Avara Moody completed work with an Auckland leather goods business to begin the manufacturing process. The Llane bag features an outer layer of premium New Zealand deer skin. Soft leather up top creates the iconic shape, and a thicker, pebbled leather on the base which gives added durability.

Textile design associate professor Dr Sandra Heffernan says the inner fabric, developed by scientists at AgResearch and Texus Fibre engineers with the graduates' help, acts as a filter to keep belongings dry and fresh inside the bag. "It also helps the leather age gracefully because it has antimicrobial properties to reduce bacteria growth. Wool Fresh is resilient, durable and easy to care for." Currently the bag is only available for retail sale online but the record response to the crowd funding campaign, with \$33,825, raised in 24 hours will help realise further plans toward its manufacture, marketing and commercialisation, she says.

From *Massey.ac.nz*

New York Times premiers Saddleback Leather Film's Late December



Retail leather goods company . premiers their second short documentary in The New York Times Op-Docs section. After creating a Filmmaker-in-Residence program in 2013 for filmmaker Joe Callander, Saddleback has premiered two films at the Sundance Film Festival, and has had two films screen on the New York Times.

Late December is the story of one man's unbroken devotion to his wife of 63 years, even as Alzheimer's has steadily eroded her mind and memory over the past eight years. Filmmaker Joe Callander became interested in loss as a storytelling theme while filming his first Op-Doc for the New York Times, *Midnight Three & Six*, which tells the story of a girl who lost the function of her pancreas to Type 1 diabetes.

Saddleback Leather Co. traces its origins back to a single bag, designed and built for Dave Munson when he was volunteering and working in Mexico. In search of the perfect bag at the time, Munson commissioned a local leather craftsman to build his design. As the quantity of orders from fellow travelers could not be denied, Munson started Saddleback Leather Co. in 2003, bringing together classic design with his signature take on personal, indestructible functionality. Thousands of bags later, the Saddleback Leather collection features heirloom-level bags and small accessories produced with the highest quality leather that will age to reflect the owner's trials and travels. Saddleback Leather, They'll fight over it when you're dead.TM

Callander also produces all of Saddleback's brand videos. Check out this one: [how to knock off a bag](#)

From: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2016/04/prweb13316108.htm>

TFL releases new trends catalogue



The specialty chemicals manufacturer for tanneries and leather processing companies has released its TFL Colour Trends Catalogue for the Autumn/Winter 2017-18 season.

Divided into two sections named ‘Wearing’ and ‘Living’, the catalogue presents the colour trends for the leather garment, footwear, accessory and upholstery industries. Wearing comprises inspirations and colour trends for garments, footwear and accessories. The Living section features all colours that will decorate the season’s interior designs.

For instance, the Wearing section forecasts that leather clothing will follow the trend towards matt and rustic appearances, softened by geometric textures or prints of crocodiles and pythons, whereas in sportswear, buffalo leather printed with Indian embroidery patterns are now trendy. The colours vary from intense brown, green and violet to red and pink.

In “Living”, a comfortable and elegant new classism can be seen in brightly coloured wet-white suede articles such as water-repellent nubuck sofas, lightly buffed with contrasting patterns, and leather accessories with worn-effects, highlighted with metallic pigments in brass and bronze shades. The colours range from pastel brown, yellow, orange and blue.

In addition, TFL introduces the RODA cor HTP pigments, a range of fine dispersed anionic pigments in aqueous phase with a high transparency.

For more information and to obtain the catalogue: www.tfl.com

From *internationalleathermaker.com*

How Millennial fashion consumers are transforming the international retail scene



The fashion community is buzzing about ‘millennials’. This generation – broadly defined as 15 to 35-year-olds – will soon represent the majority of consumers, and brands are clamoring to understand and appeal to their values.

Like any generation, they vary in their preferences and in their social and political engagement. But numerous recent market surveys indicate that in general, they are sensitive to change, they need to be stimulated, they are money conscious and are quite frugal, they are social, they love to share, they care about the social and environmental practices of the companies they purchase from and they can be great brand ambassadors.

The large audience of the second Global Footwear Retail Conference that was held at the Hong Kong last March, gained a unique in-depth understanding of this most enigmatic and influential generation, thanks to a vivid description of millennials by Jayne Esteve Curé of Jayne Fashion Agency.

Millennials are the generation that makes up the largest segment and the most future purchasing power in the fashion industry. Their estimated world combined purchasing power is USD 10 trillion, of which USD 2.45 trillion is for apparel. Affected by successive crisis and recessions and born “digital natives” they do not obey to conventional consuming rules. To understand their needs is vital for retailers to successfully engage them.

The session was packed with useful hints about how to reach this important consumer market and with some ideas on how to incorporate the new fashion customer in a company’s business strategy.

This is where participants learnt that millennials are frenzied followers of fashion bloggers and that for example 58 per cent of them turn to social network Pinterest and 49% browse Instagram before buying a product.

Paradoxically while they seem to live in a non-stop online community they also have high expectations when visiting stores. “They want to feel as privileged and unique in store as online,” explained Esteve Curé.

The trends of “See now buy now” and of “ATAWAD” (Any Time, Anywhere, Any Device) are totally

disrupting the traditional rhythm of fashion. “The millennial wants to wear now what he buys now; it is about the fashion calendar being in tune with seasons so that the goods consumers can buy are synchronised with the weather,” explained Esteve Curé.

The trend was initiated by Burberry which announced that starting September 2016, it will replace its current four-show calendar with two runway shows. They are calling the new format “season less, immediate, and personal,” adding that the two shows – one in September and one in February – will not only feature both menswear and womenswear collections, but will also be available to purchase in-store and online immediately.

This is a major step within the fashion industry, which has been trying to cope with today’s immediacy of online and social media coverage of shows and the six-month wait to actually purchase collections. “The fashion trend system has made runway trends immediately accessible not only to trend driven accessible fashion brands but directly to the consumer... This reflects one of fashion’s most recent debates the « see now/buy now » issue also named « from runway to market,» Esteve Cure commented.

“Runways have become sales events rather than press and dreams inducing events,” confirmed Leslie Gallin, President of Footwear, UBM Americas and Board Member of American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) and of the FDRA.

Another hot and disrupting trend to watch for in 2016 and the years to come is the release of collections not based on gender but on style. This new style tribe has been gaining popularity on the street and social media. “Millennials like to break rules. Gender neutral fashion is seeing greater acceptance,” observed trend expert Victoria de la Fuente, of Lambert+Associates. A trend that was initiated by apparel brands and that footwear brands increasingly follow suit.

From *aplif.com*

What's new May 2016 : papers added to the LASRA Library catalogue



The Effect of Cloisite[®] Na⁺ Nanoclay Filler on the Morphology and Mechanical Properties of Loose Leather

by Sujay Prabakar, Catherine P. Whitby, Anna M. Henning and Geoff Holmes

Looseness describes a structural fault in leather, which leads to the development of wrinkles on the surface when the leather is bent inwards. It causes up to 7% of hides processed to finished leather to be downgraded or rejected at final inspection, requiring replacement and causing delay in meeting orders. Fillers can fill the interstitial spaces in loose leathers and make the looseness less pronounced. Here, the effect of Cloisite[®] Na⁺, a nanoclay filler, on loose cattle hides is investigated by electron microscopy and mechanical characterization. Whilst SEM studies show an apparent filling effect in the grain-corium boundary at increasing concentrations of filler, TEM images show that at an optimum concentration of 3% uniform dispersion of the filler along with good handle can be obtained. A gradual increase in tensile and tear strength is observed with increasing concentration of Cloisite[®] Na⁺, however softness measurements correlated with microscopic observations in that only at optimum concentrations can both good handle and mechanical strength be achieved. We discuss a possible mechanism for the change in mechanical properties and handle of the loose leather after treating with Cloisite[®] Na⁺. The mechanistic study of such treatments on low quality hides will result in the production of leathers with more uniform cutting area and added functionality.

JALCA May 2016

Accelerated Liming Process Using Phase Transfer Catalyst

by N. Vedaraman, K. V. Sandhya, K. C. Velappan and C. Muralidharan

In the present work, effect of using phase transfer catalysts (PTC) was studied in liming and re-liming processes of goat skin, for decrease in the processing time, thereby increasing productivity. Three different Phase Transfer Catalysts; Tetramethylammonium Hydroxide (TMAH), Tetraethylammonium Hydroxide

(TEAH) and Tetrabutylammonium Hydroxide (TBAH) were chosen and experiments were conducted on liming and re-liming of goat skin to select suitable catalyst in comparison with the conventional liming process. The monitoring parameters were ease of hair removal and increase in pelt weight to find the maximum swelling and plumping. After determining the optimal PTC amount, studies were also carried out on reuse of liquor containing PTC with replenishment. Use of TMAH in liming process was found to bring about significant time reduction and could bring improved swelling in liming and re-liming processes.

JALCA May 2016

Low Carbon Products to Design Innovative Leather Processes. Part IV: Manufacture of Automotive Leather Using Tara

by Luís Ollé, Jorge Díaz, Concepció Casas and Anna Bacardit

In three previous studies, the fruit of the tara tree (*Cæsalpinia Spinosa*) has been used as a pre-tanning agent. This new tailored tara product will be able to facilitate the penetration of the tannin molecules through the leather section, avoiding or reducing the use of aldehydes, syntans, common vegetable tannins and other mineral salts.

The aim of this part of the study is to manufacture final articles meeting the parameters set by different regulations, and assess if this modified tara can be marketed and used in the industry to replace some less sustainable products.

JALCA May 2016

Preparation of Biobased Sponges from Un-tanned Hides

by Aisha Siddique, Nicholas P. Latona, Maryann M. Taylor and Cheng-Kung Liu

One of our research endeavours to address ongoing challenges faced by the U.S. hide and leather industries is to develop innovative uses and novel biobased products from hides to improve prospective markets and to secure a viable future for hides and leather industries. We had previously investigated the production of nonwoven, green composites, and films from collagen fibre networks, which were extracted from un-tanned hides and from tannery solid wastes, such as splits or trimmings. Recently, we investigated the preparation of biobased sponges from un-tanned, specifically limed hides, which have potential commercial applications in medical care. We also investigated the effects of processing steps such as bating and alkaline treatments using sodium hydroxide (NaOH) on the morphology and viscoelasticity of resultant sponges from un-tanned hides. Results showed that the treatments of fibre networks have significant effects on the properties of resultant sponges. The dynamic mechanical analysis showed alkaline treatments yielded stiffer sponges than limed and bated samples. SDS-PAGE analysis showed the molecular weights of sponges were maintained in the range as those of commercial collagen samples. Lastly the resultant sponges are in the desirable apparent density range for a potential application as a medical sponge.

JALCA May 2016

Moisture sorption isotherms of leather

by *N. Benmakhlouf; S. Azzouz,; H. Khedhira; A. Elcafsi*

Leather is produced by an industry with high economic and industrial importance and is one of the most expensive products in the world. Owing to its important production, moisture characterization of leather has become a topic of extended and varied research works. The goal of this work is to determine sorption isotherms of leather as the impact of climate-controlled sorption isotherms of the leather moisture is still not clear, this property is absolutely necessary, especially in regard to leather drying and storage in order to guarantee its quality prior to its industrial use. The sorption isotherms were determined at different levels of temperature 30°C, 40°C, 50°C and 60°C and the equilibrium moisture content of leather samples was measured within the range of 5 to 90% relative humidity, using the static gravimetric method based on saturated salt solutions. The equilibrium water content decreases with increasing temperature. The isotherms are of type II, according to the classification of Brunauer (1938). Furthermore, the Dent model is found to be the most appropriate for describing the relationship between the equilibrium moisture content, water activity and temperature.

JSLTC March-April 2016

Removal of chromium from tanning wastewater by chemical precipitation and electrocoagulation

by *B. Mella; A.C. Glanert; M. Gutterres*

Although chromium is used in the form of basic chromium sulfate for processing hides, it has well known adverse effects when improperly disposed of in the environment under certain circumstances when Cr(III) can be oxidized to Cr(VI). Tanneries use large amounts of water for processing hides; hence, chromium recovery from tanning wastewater is an environmentally friendly and economically viable alternative, as it can prevent a greater amount of chromium-containing sludge from being disposed of in industrial hazardous waste landfills. Compliance with environmental legislation also poses a challenge to the leather industry, as the parameters for discharging treated wastewater into receiving water bodies are increasingly stringent, which encourages the practice of techniques for recovery and reuse of chemical inputs in the tanning of hides. This study focuses on the removal of the chromium present in tanning wastewater through chemical precipitation and electrocoagulation. In both methods, chromium is separated in the form of an insoluble precipitate either by the addition of alkali or by the oxidation and reduction of metal anodes. Chemical precipitation resulted in 99.74% of removal efficiency, while in electrocoagulation with aluminum, copper and iron electrodes, removal efficiency was 97.76%, 69.91% and 90.27%, respectively.

JSLTC March-April 2016

Effect of finishing density on the physico-mechanical properties of leather

by S. Nalbat; E. Onem, E; B. Basaran; A. Yorgancioglu; O. Yilmaz

Finishing is the process in which a polymeric coating is applied in order to improve the appearance and resistance of leather products. The applications at this stage greatly affect the use and appeal of the final product. In this study, the effect of different coating compositions on the physico-mechanical properties of leather was investigated. For this purpose, three different types of finishing formulations including semi-aniline, lightly pigmented and opaque finishes having different covering powers rated from light to heavy, respectively, were applied to the leathers and results were compared with uncoated counterparts. The findings of the study revealed that the application of lightly pigmented finishing statistically increased the tensile strength, single and double edge tear loads, and stitch tear resistance of the leather to a large extent. Semi-aniline and opaque finishing gave lower or, in some cases, statistically insignificant increases in the physico-mechanical properties of the leathers.

JSLTC March-April 2016

Effect of hydrophilic chain extenders on properties of hyperbranched waterborne polyurethane

by Wang, X.; Ren, J.; Qiang, T.

Using hydroxyl terminated hyperbranched polymer as the core, dimethylol propionic acid (DMPA), dimethylolbutanoic acid (DMBA), carboxylic acid type monomer (DMCA) as the hydrophilic chain extenders respectively, three different types of hyperbranched waterborne polyurethane leather finishing agents were synthesized. The structures and properties of the products were characterized by FT-IR, SEM, AFM and TG. Simultaneously, the mechanical properties, surface wettability and water and solvent resistance of three films were studied. The results found the order of crystallinity to be: DMBA-HWPU.

JSLTC March-April 2016

Removal of heavy metal chromium from tannery effluent using ultrafiltration membrane

by Vinodhini, P. Angelin; Sudha, P.N.

The present study was aimed to fabricate a novel ultrafiltration membrane using cellulose acetate, nanochitosan, and polyethylene glycol of ratio 1:2:2 by phase inversion method. Analytical techniques such as Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), X-ray diffractometer (XRD), and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) have been employed to characterize the prepared membrane. FTIR and XRD results revealed the formation of blended membrane with increased amorphous nature. SEM studies exhibited the rough surface with numerous pores. The prepared membrane was also characterized for its ultrafiltration

performance by membrane compaction, pure water flux, water content, and porosity. The results showed that the membrane obtained a pure water flux of 25.32 l/m² h. The water content was found to be 24 % and a high porosity of 83 % was obtained which showed the membrane's high hydrophilicity and more porous nature. The main focus of the present study was toxic hexavalent chromium removal from tannery effluent using the prepared hydrophilic membrane, which causes various adverse effects. The effect of pH of the solution (viz., pH 5, 7, and 9), membrane thickness (0.1 and 0.2 mm), and the applied pressure (50 and 100 kPa) were studied which are the key factors in determining the efficiency of the prepared membrane in remediation of tannery effluent. The results showed high percentage removal of chromium at pH 7 using 0.2 mm thickness at 100 kPa. The physicochemical parameters of the tannery effluent were also found to be reduced.

Textiles and Clothing Sustainability 2016

The journey traversed in the remediation of hexavalent chromium and the road ahead toward greener alternatives—A perspective

by S. Kalidhasana, et al.

The discharge of heavy metals from industrial wastewater beyond the permissible limit causes serious pollution to the environment. In this regard, chromium that is discharged from electroplating, tannery and dye industrial effluents poses a major health hazard in view of the carcinogenic and genotoxic nature of hexavalent chromium. It is imperative to devise effective remediation strategies to detoxify chromium keeping in view the USEPA regulatory limit. This review deals with the environmental occurrence, remediation methods and future perspectives in the sequestration of hexavalent chromium [Cr(VI)] from wastewater. Remediation methods such as solvent extraction, adsorption using polymeric resins, clays, biopolymers, biomass, activated carbon and graphene oxide are discussed with respect to their removal efficiency, regenerability, adsorption capacities and other characteristics. Considerable emphasis is laid on the utility of chelating adsorbents and ionic liquid impregnated adsorbents for the remediation of chromium from tannery and electroplating wastewater. The review examines published data in last few years concerning the removal of toxic Cr(VI) with a critical evaluation on the merits and demerits of each of the processes and the road ahead towards formulating more effective strategies.

Coordination Chemistry Reviews 2016

Fashion spot: Katy Perry attends red carpet in sheer and leather



Spotted at the launch of the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy in Los Angeles on 13 April 2016, Katy Perry sported a black leather gown with sheer lace panels.