

Taken from The Business Educator, March 1924

Where Ink Materials Come From

Few persons think as they dip their pens into the ink that they are using materials that come from every corner of the globe. Yet ink is made of some of the queerest of things that come from far-away places.

Aleppo gallnuts from Turkey and plum gallnuts from China supply the tannic acid that helps to make the writing turn black; while logwood extract from Jamaica and South America produces the purple black color. From Arabia and India comes the gum Arabic used to improve the writing qualities of ink. Camphor is brought from Japan for use as an antiseptic. Sometimes we import aniline dyes of special color from Germany, while from the same source we obtain tartaric acid, used as a solvent for these colors. France may supply the carmine color for red ink, and from Holland comes the lithopone for certain white and other colored inks. As a preservative for these mixtures, pure carbolic crystals are imported from England.