Anthropodermic bibliopegy refers to the practice of binding books in human skin. According to folk legend, the binding of books (or more appropriately manuscripts, as they were hand-written) in human skin can be traced all the way back to the Middle Ages. Anthropodermic bibliopegy refers to the practice of binding books in human skin. According to folk legend, the binding of books (or more appropriately manuscripts, as they were hand-written) in human skin can be traced all the way back to the Middle Ages. The first reliable accounts of books being bound in human skin, however, date to the 17th century and it seems to have become popular during the 19th century. When Did the Practice of Anthropodermic Bibliopegy Begin?