Chris 1st vol. Page 39 confusing
last 3 paragraph, ie: treatment of chemtawed

Chris Clarkson
1 vol.

The finest limp vellum binding of the 1470's to c. 1510 achieves a balance between sound sewing construction and a flexible durable limp cover, the whole technique using little or no adhesive and having the character of a tied bundle, flexible and light in weight. End-band cores and thongs entwine cover and liner to the text-block, creating a bound rather than a constructed case.

Vellum: A full thickness and natural grain skin, where possible I prefix the word with the animal's name which the skin derives from. ie goat vellum, calf v.

Forel: a grain split.

Parchment: To denote a material surfaced on both sides, often a flesh split, and prepared for writing upon.

W. L. Ustick "Parchment + Vellum", Trans. Biblio. Soc., XVI, 1935, p. 439-443

R. J. Forbes, "Parchment" in Studies in Ancient Tehnology, II, Leyden 1956

M. L. Ryder "Parchment", Its History, Manufacture and Composition

J. Carter ABC for Book Collectors London, 3rd Ed. 1961

Complaints of premature embrittlement, decay + breakage are most often based on obviously impoverished skin processing. In giving advice modern binders show one fundamental and almost universal weakness, which is that they see only the books which need attention. A more balanced view is difficult for them to achieve as it would involve access to many book stacks in many different libraries with long and well informed observation. Random surveys with a group of people having specialized knowledge of the history of bookbinding, construction, skin technology, storage conditions, along with specialists on the particular collection being considered, may if carefully controlled arrive at a reasonable balanced picture.

Traces of lime remain embedded in the collagen fibers of vellum skins which confer a measure of protection against action of molds + micro organisms which prefer a stratum of slightly acid character.

("so called lime" it would be calcium carbonate)

? Point I wish to make is that vellum may prove to be less moisture sensitive than parchment or at least with certain care in processing and the possibility of partial tannage, if could could be made so. ? ?

over

relative humidity of 60-65% has most beneficial effect
If temp. could be kept between 18-20C then the relative humidity could go up to 70%.

Since vellum is a hyaroscopic substance, it will behave in sympathy with the rise + fall of the relative humidity of the ambient atmosphere.

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The skills + knowledge of the manufacturing process of such a natural balanced membrane as vellum could well be lost to the modern vellum maker. The high quality of earlier vellum was due to the following: A) hardy skins; B) specialized slaughtering; C) fresh skins and unhurried processing.
? Partial tannage could also prove an interesting factor in producing a certain degree of flexibility + stability.