

Herbert T. Pratt to Receive The Olney Medal

Herbert T. Pratt, retired technical marketing associate with the Du Pont Co. and a noted authority on the identification and use of textile fibers, has been named the 1993 recipient of The Olney Medal for achievement in textile chemistry.

A native of Eden, N. C., Pratt holds a BS in chemical engineering (1945) from Tri-State University in Angola, Ind., and an MS in history (1988) from Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt. He also has done graduate work in American history at the University of Delaware and in the history of chemistry at Southern Illinois University. A certified chemical engineer, he served as an adjunct associate professor of textiles at North Carolina State University from 1974 to 1979.

He began his professional career in 1945 as a development engineer in electroplating with the King-Seeley Corp. of Ann Arbor, Mich. In 1946 he returned to his hometown to join Fieldcrest Mills (now Fieldcrest Cannon) as a textile chemist, serving in that post until he was named head of analytical and applied chemistry in 1948.

Pratt left Fieldcrest in 1952 to join Du Pont Co.'s textile fibers department at Wilmington, Del., as a customer service representative. He was named research engineer in 1963, technical representative in 1966, technical specialist in 1972, senior technical specialist in 1976 and technical marketing associate in 1980, the post he held when he elected to take early retirement from the company in 1985.

From the broad technical perspective his duties at Du Pont made possible, Pratt developed an expertise in many areas including the physical and chemical properties of fibers, textile dyeing and finishing and quality management systems.

From 1975 to 1985 he was Du Pont's contact for law enforcement agencies seeking help in the identification and use of textile fibers as legal evidence. As such he had input into many criminal cases which drew national media attention—i.e., the Ted Bundy case in Florida, the Hillside Strangler in Los Angeles and the Wayne Williams trial in Atlanta. He also assisted the prosecution in the Stephen Pennell serial murder cases in Wilmington, Del.

His interest and research in the history of chemistry—especially history relating to textile chemistry—resulted in his becoming a collector of rare books and a member of the National Foundation for History of Chemistry, Historical Society

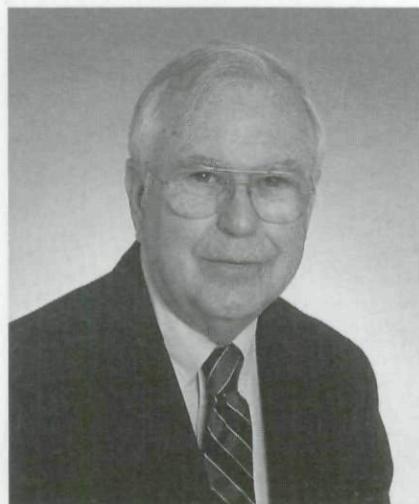
of Delaware, American Heritage Society, Archaeological Society of Delaware, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Rockingham County (North Carolina) Historical Society, Delaware Bibliophiles and the History of Science Society.

More importantly, he has shared the results of his research through some 50 published writings, many of which have appeared in TCC. He also has authored some 129 other writings on a variety of technical subjects, primarily on textile dyeing and finishing. He won the American Dyestuff Reporter Award in 1968 for the best paper published in AATCC Proceedings that year.

Professional Activities

A member of AATCC since 1968, Pratt has participated in the work of research and administrative committees since 1970. They have included the Knit Technology Committee, 1970-80 (chairman 1970-72); Terminology Committee, 1977 to present (chairman 1977-83); Technical Committee on Research 1970-87, 1990 to present; Executive Committee on Research, 1983-85; Editorial Board, 1977 to present; Publications Committee, 1979-82; Technical Manual Editorial Board, Chairman 1983-86; Committee on Barr[0082] Assessment, 1980 to present (chairman since 1990); Committee on History and Archives 1981-85, 1990 to present.

In addition to AATCC, Pratt has been active in the work of a number of other organizations including the American Chemical Society, ASTM Committee



HERBERT T. PRATT began his textile career as a chemist with Fieldcrest Mills in 1946.

D-13 on Textiles, International Organization for Standardization, Man-Made Fiber Producers Association, National Fire Protection Association, Textured Yarn Association of America, Torch Club International, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Delaware Academy of Science and American Institute of Chemists.

Many Citations

Pratt's contributions to AATCC and other organizations have brought him a number of citations for distinguished service. Among them are:

- American Dyestuff Reporter Award for the the best paper published in AATCC Proceedings in calendar 1967.

- Award of Appreciation from the Canadian Association of Textile Colourists and Chemists (1970).

- Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the Delaware Valley Section's winning entry in AATCC's 1978 Intersectional Technical Paper Competition. The paper was on the Effect of Disperse Dyes on Certain Flammability Characteristics of Polyester.

- Award of Merit, ASTM (1978).
- Named a Fellow of ASTM (1978).
- Award for Editorial Excellence, ASTM (1979).

- Frank W. Reinhart Award, ASTM (1982).

- Named an Honorary Member of ASTM Committee D-13 on Textiles (1987).

- Member Award, ASTM Committee on Terminology (1987).

- Outstanding Service Award, ASTM Committee D-13 (1989).

- Service Award, ASTM Committee on Terminology (1990).

Pratt and his wife, the former Mary Stubbs of Eatonton, Ga., reside in New Castle, Del. She is a retired science teacher who was a chemist with the Institute of Textile Technology at Charlottesville, Va., when she met him during a visit to Fieldcrest Mills at Eden. They have four children—Warren, an attorney in Philadelphia; Michael, a sales representative for a rental car agency in Los Angeles; Ann Queitsch of Wilmington, Del., a homemaker; and Alison, a psychologist in private practice in Floral Park, N.Y. They have a granddaughter by son Warren and two grandsons by daughter Ann.

As a history buff turned scholar, Pratt has amassed a personal library of some 3000 books. Chief among them are books
continued page 70

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