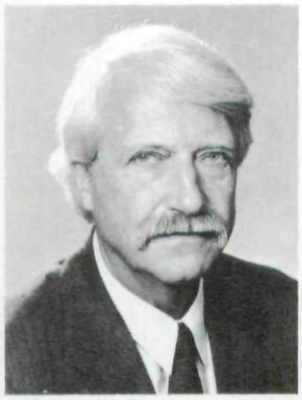
Hans-Dietrich Weigmann To Receive The Olney Medal



Hans-Dietrich Weigmann of Textile Research Institute, Princeton, N. J., has been named the 1990 recipient of The Olney Medal in recognition of his contributions toward a better understanding of textile chemistry, particularly in relation to the chemistry and structure of fibers and their interactions with solvents, chemicals and dyes.

Weigmann, who is associate director of research at TRI, is known internationally for his work in fiber structure-property relationships, structure development in fibers and films, dye transport behavior and polymer solvent interactions. His studies also have included fiber surface characterization and finish distribution analysis. He has published widely in this field as well as in cellulose fiber chemistry, formaldehyde release and in keratin fiber chemistry where he is particularly interested in the characterization of surface and property modifications.

A native of Rostock, Germany, Weigmann received a vordiplom in chemistry from the University of Hamburg in 1954, a diplom in organic chemistry from the University of Heidelberg in 1958 and a doctorate in organic chemistry from the Institute of Technology at Aachen in 1960. After a year as a scientist at the German Wool Research Institute, he joined TRI as a postdoctoral fellow. He was named senior scientist in 1963, associate director for chemical research in 1967 and associate director of research in 1970.

He has authored or coauthored more than 100 technical papers and several book chapters including a chapter on natural fibers for the Encyclopedia Brittanica. He was presented AATCC's Paper of the Year Award in 1982 for a report he coauthored with T. F. Cooke of TRI on The Chemistry of Formaldehyde Release from Durable Press Fabrics. He and Y. K. Kamath of TRI were presented a Literature Award in 1986 by the Society of Cosmetic Chemists for their "distinguished publications on the physical and chemical nature of human hair, for their extensive and continuing contributions on the understanding of the mechanical behavior of keratin fibers, and for providing insights that allow advances in hair product development which ultimately benefit the consumer."

Active in AATCC since 1975, Weigmann has been a member of its Executive Committee on Research; chairman of Committee RA91, Applied Dyeing Theory; chairman of the 1987 Millson Award Committee; chairman of the 1983 International Dyeing Symposium in Atlanta; and a member of Committee RA33, Colorfastness to Atmospheric Contaminants.

Active as well in the American Chemical Society and The Fiber Society, he has participated in a number of their conferences and symposia both as a speaker and as a member or chairman of their planning committees. He also was chairman of the 1975 Gordon Research Conference on Fiber Science.

Weigmann and his wife, the former Christa Von Schwind of Windhoek, Namibia, reside in Princeton. They have two daughters; Stefanie, a law student at the University of Michigan, and Jessica, a model and a student of the theater and the arts in New York.

The Olney Medal

Established in 1944 in honor of Dr. Louis Atwell Olney, the founder and first president of AATCC, The Olney Medal is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in textile or polymer chemistry or other fields of chemistry of major importance to textile science.

Presentation of the medal each year is a highlight of AATCC conferences. This year's presentation will be made at the conference awards luncheon on Monday, October 1. Immediately following the luncheon, Weigmann will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address. His topic will be Analysis of Finish Distribution on Textile Substrates.

Previous Recipients

Weigmann is the forty-seventh recipient of The Olney Medal. The first award was to Dr. Olney in 1944. Since then it has been awarded to:

1945—Milton Harris, Milton Harris Associates
1946—William A. Cady, U.S. Finishing Co.
1947—Edward A. Schwarz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1948—Harold M. Chase, Dan River Mills
1949—Charles A. Seibert, The Du Pont Co
1950—George L. Royer, American Cyanamid Co.
1951—Raymond W. Jacoby, Ciba Co.
1952—Werner von Bergen, Forstmann Woolen Co.
1953—Roland E. Derby Sr., The Derby Co.
1954—William D. Appel, National Bureau of Standards
1955—Miles A. Dahlen, The Du Pont Co.
1956—Walter J. Hamburger, Fabric Research Laboratories
1957—P.J. Wood, Royce Chemical Co.
1958—Henry E. Millson, American Cyanamid Co.
1959—Emery I. Valko, Lowell Technological Institute
1960—Arnold M. Sookne, Harris Research Laboratories
1961—Fred Fortess, Celanese Corporation of America
1962—Charles F. Goldthwait, North Carolina State University
1963—Guiliana C. Tesoro, J. P. Stevens & Co.
1964—Richard O. Steele, Rohm and Haas Co.
1965—Herman F. Mark, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn
1966—Wilson A. Reeves, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1967—Edwin I. Stearns, American Cyanamid Co.
1968—Harold P. Lundgren, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1969—D. Donald Gagliardi, Gagliardi Research Corp.
1970—Paul L. Meunier, The Du Pont Co.
1971—Ernest R. Kaswell, Fabric Research Laboratories
1972—Victor S. Salvin, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1973—Herman B. Goldstein, Sun Chemical Corp.
1974—Henry A. Rutherford, North Carolina State University
1975—R. Lee Wayland Jr., Dan River Inc.
1976—George L. Drake Jr., U.S. Department of Agriculture
1977—James M. Straley, Tennessee Eastman Co.
1978—Dmitry M. Gagarine, Milliken Research Corp.
1979—Joseph W. Gibson Jr., The Du Pont Co.
1980—Roland E. Derby Jr., The Derby Co.
1981—Mathias J. Schuler, The Du Pont Co.
1982—Stephen B. Sello, J. P. Stevens & Co.
1983—Theodore F. Cooke, Textile Research Institute
1984—Ralph McGregor, North Carolina State University

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polypropylene fibers and lectured on fiber structure, color and spectroscopy, and crease resistant finishing.

Meyer was with Burlington Industries' research center at Greensboro in 1967-68 where he worked on soil release and flame retardant finishes and on shrink-resist and vapor phase finishing. He returned to Switzerland in 1968 as head of textile technology and the chemistry lab for the Stoffel Division of Burlington at Netstal. He was head of research and development there when he left in 1972 to become assistant to Professor Zollinger and group leader for research in textile chemistry at ETH. While working with Zollinger, Meyer spent a year (1981-82) as research fellow at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Since 1978 he has worked with Professor P. Rys at ETH, teaching dyeing and textile chemistry at both graduate and postgraduate levels.

Research Areas

Meyer's research at ETH has included various aspects of dyeing, printing and finishing of both natural and synthetic fibers. His projects have focused on soil release finishes, crosslinking cellulose, highly active crosslinking catalysts, shrink resistant finishing of wool, optimization of properties in preparation and finishing, variation of liquor pickup and drying processes, staining techniques for resin finishes on cotton and wool, staining mechanism of Rhodamine B on cellulose, investigation of covalent bonds between dyes and wool, reactive dyeing of silk, cationic dyes on polyacrylonitrile, microbial degradation of optical brighteners and azo dyes, reactive dyeing of cellulose, printing cotton fabrics with reactive dyes and scale up problems in adapting laboratory formulae and processes to production.

The results of much of Meyer's work have been published in the technical press. He has been the principal author or coauthor of some 32 papers published in TCC, TEXTILVEREDLUNG, TEXTILE RESEARCH JOURNAL, THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS and others.

A member of the Swiss Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, Meyer was awarded its Conrad Prize in 1987 in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of textile chemistry. He has served the association as a delegate to meetings of the International Federation of Associations of Textile Chemists and Colourists, and was chairman of the scientific committee for IFATCC's 15th International Congress which met in Lucerne in June. He is a member of the Environmental Protection Committee and has been a member of various technical committees of the Swiss Textile Industry.

Meyer is the father of two sons: Martin, 24, a student in chemistry, and Thomas, 21, a student in physics. His hobbies include music, skiing and mountain climbing.

The Millson Award

The Millson Award for Invention was established in 1979 to recognize outstanding contributions to textile wet processing technology. The award is named for Henry E. Millson, retired head of dyes research for American Cyanamid Co. who also is a noted inventor and was the 1958 recipient of AATCC's Olney Medal for outstanding achievment in textile chemistry.

Previous recipients of the award have been:

1980—Samuel Smith of Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. for his development of the first commercially successful oil and water repellent fluorochemical textile finishes.

1981—L. Russell Maguire of Pioneer Finishing Co., inventor of the Flowtrue Logroll for eliminating dye streaks in the warp direction of a roll of fabric.

1982—George M. Bryant and Andrew T. Walter of Union Carbide Corp. for the development of the Foam Finishing Technology low energy process for finishing.

1983—Valentin Appenzeller, inventor of the swimming roll concept for overcoming deflections of opposing rolls in padders.

1984—Victor F. Fahringer, inventor of the jet dyeing machine.

1985—Herman B. Goldstein of HBG Export Corp. for his development of a low cost process for manufacturing dimethylol dihydroxy ethylene urea (DMDHEU) and his discovery that DMDHEU was ideally suited for use as a cellulose crosslinker.

1986—Andrew G. Pierce Jr. and John G. Frick Jr. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Research Center for their development of magnesium chloride-hydroxy acid mixed catalyst systems for durable press finishing.

1987—Dietrich R. Hildebrand of Bayer AG for his work on the fundamentals and techniques of reactive dyeing.

1988—Hugh R. Davidson and Henry Hemmendinger, developers of the first successful color matching computer system.

1989—Winfried T. Holfeld of Du Pont for contributions in improving the dye uniformity of nylon and polyester fabrics.

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1985—Stanley P. Roland, U.S. Department of Agriculture

1986—Melvin D. Hurwitz, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

1987—Ludwig Rebenfeld, Textile Research Institute

1988—Martin K. Lindemann, Consultant

1989—J. Lee Rush, Allied-Signal Inc.