

The Textile Institute Annual Report 2004



The Textile Institute

The Textile Institute, incorporated in England by a Royal Charter granted in 1925, is governed democratically by and on behalf of individual members throughout the world, registered as a charity and recognised as a non-profit association under the laws of many countries.

The Chairman of Council's Statement



Professor Richard Horrocks
Chairman of Council

2003 was a year of continued challenge for the Board and Council, especially on the financial front. Priorities were cutting unnecessary costs and streamlining activities with Council and Board focussing attention on services to the membership, whether individual or corporate. We have done this in the belief that members are valued by their professional body and that the Institute exists to benefit them and, as a UK charity, the wider public interest that textiles, including the clothing and footwear supply chains, engenders in the UK and across the world.

The first major milestone was the launch of the redesigned website, www.textileinstitute.org, at the recent ITMA held in Birmingham during October 2003. The site offers the general public access at a basic level with privileged membership access to levels that enable direct links to the member database and sectional and special interest group information. To date, member feedback has been positive and constructive comments have enabled useful modifications to be made.

Secondly, the well-established *Textiles* has been re-launched as the Institute's membership magazine. It has been designed, not as a competitor to the various trade journals, but as a means of communicating with members by offering them both general and specific items of interest, as well as inviting sectional- and interest-group input. *Textiles Magazine* is still being offered under separate subscription to schools and libraries, thereby bringing the Institute and its interests to a wider readership. Members wishing to receive the latest news from across the world of textiles, clothing and footwear are also invited to visit the website, which is updated daily.

A third priority is the catching-up of the backlog in publishing the *Journal of the Textile Institute* and *Textile Progress* and we are on target to have all 2003 and 2004 editions in the public domain by the end of December 2004. In 2005, we expect editions of *JTI* to be available to subscribers online, in addition to the conventional paper version.

The fourth and final milestone achieved is the redefinition of TI-accredited consultants on the website register. It is now a condition that consultants on the register are chartered members or are in the process of becoming so. As a consequence, the Institute is benchmarking the quality of its accredited consultants by recognising the standing of its own awards.

For 2004 we have set ourselves the target of increasing membership using the achievements made to date as a means of convincing both current and future members that the Institute plays a significant role in furthering their professional interests in the 21st century, where accommodation of continual change is an essential requirement. The Institute is also seeking to attract a greater proportion of professionals from the fashion, design, and commercial parts of the supply chain. Thus it may amplify its relevance, in particular, to the Western European, Australasian and North American textiles and footwear economies, while recognising that manufacturing weight has shifted to Eastern Europe, the Indian sub-continent and South East Asia.

I hope that all members have experienced some of these changes and will continue to do so during 2004. The permanent staff are committed to advancing the interests of the Institute and I thank them all for their efforts.

Professor Richard Horrocks

Chairman of Council



The Textile Institute

Annual Report of Council 2004



Lord Haskel
President



Michael Parkinson
Hon. Secretary

Membership

All members have a vested interest in the Institute and in developing its services and global network to its full potential. We would like all our members to act as ambassadors for the Institute, actively encouraging their colleagues, business contacts, and those in the academic fields, including staff and students, to become members.

Special thanks are due to members and TI representatives from around the world who give their time so freely to enable the work of international, national, and section committees to function.

Sector Managers are based at the International Headquarters to represent the UK, Mainland Europe, and Global Regions. In 2003, the UK sector began to focus on member- and section-contact with a systematic process of communication and this has proved to be very successful. The final quarter of 2003 has seen a significant increase in Global activity and further development is planned within the European sector for 2004.

The work carried out by the Sector Managers has built a strong foundation for 2004, which should lead to the recruitment and retention of individual and Company Patron Members worldwide.

Many thanks are due to all those members who paid their subscriptions during the last year, since prompt payment helps to ensure that the Institute can remain responsive to the needs of all its members, wherever they are based.

Professional Qualifications - Demonstrating Standards of Excellence

The prime focus for the Professional and Educational Affairs sector has, as always, been the promotion of the Institute's Chartered and Licentiate qualifications. All members have been encouraged to achieve the highest level of qualification commensurate with their knowledge and experience, thereby enhancing their CVs and marketability in an increasingly competitive world. In addition, a major drive has been initiated to remind companies of the benefits of employing professionally qualified staff, under the slogan 'Chartered Professionals Know It – and Can Do It!' We look forward to the day when all recruitment advertisements for staff in textile-related areas state 'CText ATI (or LTI) preferred'.

The first college to achieve accreditation under the revised procedures was the Textile Training and Services Centre, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka, which gained LTI accreditation for its Diploma in Textile Technology. Many other institutions have submissions pending, including several now offering the vocationally based Foundation Degrees.

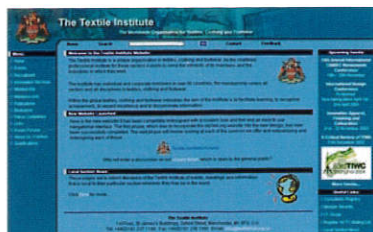
The Educational Awards Committee received a substantial number of applications again this year from students on a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and more than 60 awards were made for the academic year 2003/2004. Thanks are due again to the Worshipful Company of Weavers, the Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust, the Drapers' Company, and the Lord Barnby Foundation for their continuing support for textile students.

Publications

The re-structuring of the Publications Department, with an increase in staff resources part way through the year, has enabled considerable progress to be made in both journal production and improved book sales.

Several new issues of *Textile Progress*, covering such diverse topics as The Fashion Consumer in the Global Marketplace, Foam Technology in Textile Finishing, and Textile Floorcoverings Updated, have been published during the year and this journal is now on target to meet its full publication schedule by the end of 2004. Strenuous efforts have also been made to catch up the publication shortfall in issues of the *Journal of the Textile Institute (JTI)* and streamlined procedures are being implemented to expedite its production in 2004. Consideration is being given to the feasibility of moving to electronic publishing of both journals in the future.

Textiles is now the TI membership magazine, in place of the *International Textile*



Bulletin. It has been expanded to incorporate more pages devoted to *TI News* for members and is being produced in full colour. The change will not only raise the profile of this attractive magazine, by increasing its circulation to nearly 5000 copies and thereby attracting more subscribers and contributors, but also means that the content can be tailored to meet the needs and diverse interests of all members.

Information Services

The Information Service remains a vital resource and handles over 100 enquiries each week. In 2004 we look forward with renewed enthusiasm to the further development of the service and the achievement of stability. By restructuring the services, discarding those not used and creating new ones, we can now re-market the department and play to the strengths of the Institute. It is planned to launch new services for members in 2004, including a current awareness service and a virtual library so that all members worldwide can have access to library materials.

The Lord Barnby Foundation Library

The Lord Barnby Foundation Trust has continued to support the work done within the Library. An increased donation in 2003 was unexpected, but most welcome, and will be put to good use in 2004. Included in the plans for 2004 is the digitisation of the archive of the *JTI*. This will allow wider access to articles from the journals whilst maintaining the collection, which is now deteriorating due to age.

Projects

The year 2003 saw the Institute expand its services in this area and take a proactive role in the creation of projects. In 2004 we are looking to manage and actively participate in other projects and already have an exciting offer from the EU in Geneva to create an information source that will benefit textile professionals worldwide. In the future, consultants operating under the Textile Institute name will be required to be Chartered members.

Recruitment

The Recruitment Service provided by the TI remains an excellent source for the attraction of new members. Unique in its specialism, the service will be expanded in conjunction with the new website launched at ITMA in 2003.

The Textile Institute Website

The new website was first showcased at ITMA and, following positive feedback, went online in November with a new website address. This new site (www.textileinstitute.org) has improved a great deal upon the old texi.org site, which had become considerably outdated. The change of web address from texi.org to textileinstitute.org was made for branding purposes and to make us more recognisable to our web community. The number of visitors to the new website has grown substantially since the launch, with a Google search ranking position within the top five.

The most important improvement is in the overall design of the site: it now has a consistent professional look and feel and is easy to navigate and search. The design process was seen as one of the main ways of improving our users' online experience and attracting more people to the website. Our online discussion forums have also been re-designed to fit in with the site, with members and non-members encouraged to share ideas on the future of the industry.

The benefits provided for members continue to include the Membership Database, allowing members to network with other professionals in the field, and the International Textile Calendar, where information about meetings and events from all over the world can be found. The design of these important services will shortly be updated so that they can be incorporated into the design of our new look website. Now that we have a truly professional website in place, we will be concentrating on developing new and existing services further in 2004. It is our aim to provide the best possible service for our members and non-members alike and to encourage even more interest from prospective new members.



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