

# The Textile Institute Annual Report 2005



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

2004 has been a year of continued challenge, during which the Institute has attempted to profit by and build on the changes implemented during 2003. These were outlined in last year's *Annual Report* and the published accounts for 2003 showed that these changes had not been made without considerable cost to the Institute. The financial outcome for 2003, along with a downward valuation of many of our assets, showed a year that in isolation and without plans in place would have signalled a dire financial future. A significant factor affecting this financial position was also a considerable loss in membership revenue and it is pertinent to note that the changes planned during 2003 and implemented during 2004 have been to improve membership services and hence increase the real value of Institute membership.

With the planned changes now in place, coupled with legal advice and a successful visit by the Charity Commissioners in November, we are now confident that the immediate future of the Textile Institute is much sounder. Furthermore, the financial outcome shows that membership decline, though still a challenge, is much less than in 2003.

The first major milestone in achieving the goal of improved membership services was the launch of the redesigned website: [www.textileinstitute.org](http://www.textileinstitute.org) at ITMA in 2003. This site continues to be well received and offers members access to the membership database and information from sections and special interest groups.

During 2004, the re-launched *Textiles Magazine* continued to give good feedback from members and there are plans to enhance the quality of its content and character. A milestone of especial importance, however, is in regard of the Institute's flagship publications - *Journal of the Textile Institute* and *Textile Progress*. From January 2005, the production of these has been contracted to Woodhead Publishing Ltd., Cambridge, and the first editions of these for 2005 were available at the *World Textile Conference* in Raleigh, USA, at the end of March. The *Journal* is now available online as well as in traditional hard copy form and Woodhead sees the development of both publications as commercial opportunities for them to significantly increase their value and stature worldwide. The editorial quality and intellectual property remain with the Institute, which will receive royalties, dependent on subscriptions and online single-article purchases. In parallel with this venture, the back editions for 2003 and 2004 produced by the Institute's staff are scheduled to catch up fully by the time of the AGM in May 2005.

During 2005 we have set ourselves the target of not only reversing the previous membership decline but of increasing membership. The main driver for this will be the achievements made to date to convince both our 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 continues to seek 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 the principal manufacturing weight has shifted to Eastern Europe, the Indian sub-continent, and South East Asia.

The success of the Institute's 2004 *World Conference* in Shanghai, China, demonstrates that there is tremendous potential for the Textile Institute to expand its influence in these fast emerging economies. In parallel with this, the *International Design Forum*, held in April in Manchester, and the 2005 *World Conference* in the USA, highlight the important role that the Institute has still to play in fostering professional interests in the more technologically mature regions.

In order to build on our recent achievements and to be able to respond and adapt to geographic needs, the Institute has set in being a small taskgroup to define how it shall function in 2006 and beyond, now that the former financial challenges have become under firmer control. Whatever model is adopted, it is essential that the Institute continues to build flexible relationships with its Sections and Regions and create a true global partnership. However, this must be made possible within a much reduced administrative resource based in the UK and the termination of the lease in May 2006 of the present accommodation in St James's Buildings, Manchester, offers the chance to move to a more appropriate and affordable base within a textile-sensitive framework. I hope to be able to report on developments in this respect next year.

**Professor Richard Horrocks**

*Chairman of Council*



**The Textile Institute**



# Annual Report of Council 2005



Lord Haskel  
President

## Membership

2004 saw significant changes in the services offered to members and further developments are planned for 2005. The *Textiles Magazine* re-launched in 2004 has been well received by members. The evolution and quality of this membership magazine and *TI News* largely depends now on membership input from both individuals and Company Patrons and the Institute invites contributions across all areas of textiles, clothing, and footwear from both industry and academia.

Individual and Company Patron members can now view the *International Textile Calendar*, via the website [www.textileinstitute.org](http://www.textileinstitute.org) listing future conferences, exhibitions, seminars, short courses, and other events updated on a monthly basis. A virtual library is to be launched, so that members worldwide can have access to library materials. The catalogue lists books, journals, British Standards, and conference proceedings.

The *Journal of the Textile Institute* and *Textile Progress* will be available electronically to all Company Patrons. It is hoped that the added benefit of electronic access will bring extra value to the Company Patron membership subscription package. Individual members can also benefit from this electronic service by subscribing directly to Woodhead Publishing Ltd.

Further development of the website will see a more interactive site. The aim is to give members the tools to update their own details in real time and to be responsible for their own information accessed via the website. This will provide more time to be utilised in promoting the benefits of individual and Company Patron membership to members, sections, and non-members alike. Visitor numbers to the website now total approximately 20 000 per month. The pages viewed most are the Patrons, Events, Recruitment, Members Only, and Forum pages. A membership magazine archive for the Members Only section of the website is being produced.

In 2004 a membership drive aimed to collect members' e-mail addresses. Over half of the membership base can now be contacted electronically.

Thanks are due to Sections and National Offices for the work they carry out in promoting professional excellence in textiles, clothing, and footwear. The 2004 *Annual Report* called upon members to act as ambassadors for the Institute. This was a success: of the new members for 2004, approximately 15% were introduced through members, sections, and committees. Thanks are due to all who helped with this campaign.

## Professional Qualifications - Adding Value

Interest in the Institute's Chartered and Licentiate qualifications continued in 2004 and applications were received from members worldwide, working in many different sectors of industry and academia. It is gratifying that people join the Institute to achieve a TI professional qualification - an excellent endorsement of the added value that these qualifications bring to the professional standing of their holders, resulting from objective assessment against international benchmarks. It was pleasing to receive further applications from members with CFI qualifications in response to our initiation of a fast track scheme. It is hoped that these procedures will attract many more former CFI members in the coming year.

We are delighted to report two very important 'Firsts' in the Institute's accreditation of courses. For the first time a degree in carpet technology has been accredited for ATI - the BTech in Carpet & Textile Technology from the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, India, whose director, Prof. K. K. Goswami, has just been awarded a Fellowship in recognition of his major contributions in this field. The first Foundation Degree to be accredited for LTI is the Foundation Degree in Textiles offered by the Bolton Institute (now the University of Bolton). It is hoped that the recognition given to this specifically vocational higher education qualification, which is new within the UK, will encourage applications from similar courses around the world. We are equally pleased to draw attention to the recent accreditation of a number of degree courses in the areas of clothing, design, and fashion offered by the Department of Clothing Design & Technology of Manchester Metropolitan University, illustrating the breadth of the sectors now covered by the Institute's professional qualifications.

Thanks are again given to the Worshipful Company of Weavers, the Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust, and the Lord Barnby Foundation for funding the scholarships awarded to textile students during the academic year 2004/2005. In addition, the



Institute itself awarded ten continuation scholarships to students at colleges in India.

## Events

2004 was another successful year with first-time and established events organised by Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Sections across the world. Events in 2004 included:

The *Design Forum*, the first conference of the newly formed Design SIG, was held in Manchester, UK, attended by nearly 100 delegates, including designers, students and industrialists. Papers ranged from innovation and entrepreneurship to performance textiles and education and training.

*TIFCON, The International Floorcoverings Conference*, now in its 33rd year, attracted delegates with papers on supply chain management, marketing, and colour trends.

*Weaving: the Vital Link*, the bi-annual Weaving Group Conference was held in Leeds, UK, attended by over 110 weavers from the UK, Europe, and Canada, with speakers from the HSBC Bank, Marks & Spencer, and the DTI, and elsewhere.

The 83rd *TI Annual World Conference* was held in Shanghai, China, attended by over 600 delegates from 40 countries. The theme 'Quality textiles for quality life' obviously attracted much interest. Delegates could sample some 300 oral presentations, 200 poster presentations, and technical, industrial, and academic forums covering 10 subject areas over 7 parallel sessions, with the proceedings making over 1600 pages. Likened to a Textile Olympics, the conference was a huge success!

Other conferences, lectures, and visits were organised by SIGs and Sections around the world. Our thanks are due to both the organising committees and the many generous sponsors who make these events possible.

## Publications

2004 was an exciting year for the Publications Department, with the far-reaching changes anticipated in last year's Report now coming to fruition. Production and distribution of the Institute's prestigious *Journal* and of the monograph series *Textile Progress* have been outsourced to Woodhead Publishing Ltd, Cambridge, a fast-growing international publishing company, whose connection with the Institute goes back many years. It has already published many authoritative books on textiles in association with the Institute and it will now be using its expertise and resources to ensure that the *JTI* retains its position as the leading international journal devoted to research in textile subjects. As noted, an additional benefit to subscribers will be the provision of electronic access to both journals at no extra cost.

Much effort has been made 'in-house' to catch up with the backlog in the publication schedule of both *JTI* and *Textile Progress* and it is expected that all outstanding volumes will be completed by Spring 2005.

Book sales via the Institute's online bookstore and by direct sales were strong in 2004. We hope to build on this by introducing promotions and special offers on surplus stock.

## Business Information Service

2004 was a productive year for the service. We undertook an important project for the EU, which was well received and has raised our profile internationally. The aim for 2005 is to expand upon this success by participating in similar projects, whilst still providing a vital service for Institute members. The service is also looking to create similar projects for our Registered Consultants who can apply their specialist skills and expertise to organisation worldwide.

The Lord Barnby Foundation Trust continued to support the Lord Barnby Foundation Library and the donation, as always, was gratefully received. 2005 will see the launch of a selection of online library catalogues. The selection will include books, journals, and British Standards.

The recruitment service is still an excellent resource for attracting new members, especially younger people and student members. Unique in its specialism, we are able to help both employees of the future in their search for the perfect job and employers looking for suitable staff.



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