

# The History of Textile Technology: ADR & AATCC

By Jack Daniels

Wow! One hundred years old! Few textile associations can claim the same. AATCC is celebrating our Centennial in 2021. The theme for AATCC's celebration is "**Celebrating a Century—Focused on the Future!**"

Starting with this issue of *AATCC Review*, and continuing throughout 2021, AATCC is celebrating a century of our technical and publishing heritage by introducing a series of selected articles published in *American Dyestuff Reporter (ADR)*, the first magazine to publish AATCC activities, reports, and presentations. We also look at the AATCC publications that followed *ADR: Textile Chemist & Colorist (TC&C)*, and *AATCC Review*, where history is still being made.

A.P. Howes purchased and became publisher of the fledgling *ADR* in July of 1918. He immediately encouraged Louis A. Olney, then professor of chemistry and dyeing at the Lowell Textile School, to establish an American society for textile chemistry. The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists was officially founded in Boston, MA, USA, on November 3, 1921. *ADR* served as the official publisher for the new Association for nearly 50 years, until AATCC launched *Textile Chemist & Colorist* in 1969. AATCC subsequently purchased the assets of *ADR* in 1999.

Maria Thiry, AATCC Communications Director, recently challenged a task force consisting of Keith Beck, Martin Bide, Brian Francois, Harold Freeman, Ian Hardin, Peter Hauser, Gary Mock, and Jack Daniels (as convener), to select historical articles, published in *ADR* and early issues of *TC&C*, to introduce in *AATCC Review* to celebrate this centennial year.

This group of prior Olney Medalists, AATCC Presidents, Executive Vice Presidents, and college professors held numerous online conferences with the primary focus of selecting articles that would provide insight into key historical chemistry- and color-related developments that would benefit our younger members or late-comers to our association and industry. We hope these selected articles will rejuvenate your creative juices and encourage you to gain a better understanding of the science and history behind some of the early technological developments that have so dramatically affected our industry.

Articles reviewed and selected included the developments of hydrogen peroxide bleaching, polyester fiber, disperse dyes, fiber reactive dyes, color measurement, wrinkle-free cotton, and rotary screen printing. Each of these developments were revolutionary for our industry in their time, all continue to be refined, and continue to be in use today.

We hope these selected articles, along with the introductions to each offered by members of the task force, encourage you to explore the wealth of resources available to members on the AATCC website.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments!

All issues of *ADR* are on file in the Technical Center library and in scanned electronic format: [www.aatcc.org/pubs/adr/](http://www.aatcc.org/pubs/adr/)

Past issues of *TC&C* are available online on the EBSCO Textile Complete database, available from the AATCC website <https://members.aatcc.org/4DCGI/members/index.html>

The early history of AATCC may be found throughout issues of *ADR*, as well as the Association's history book, *Dyeing for a Living, A History of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists: 1921-1996*, by Mark Clark, available for download at: [www.aatcc.org/about/history](http://www.aatcc.org/about/history)

To discuss the articles with members of the task group, click on the "Forum" button at [www.aatcc.org/members/](http://www.aatcc.org/members/), log in, visit the Main AATCC Forum, and join the AATCC Centennial Project topic