

High distinction for Dr. Herbert Ortner

Paper Industry International
HALL OF FAME



On September 30, 1999 Herbert Ortner was inducted into the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding services to paper technology research and development.

Paper is such an everyday part of life these days, that only insiders have any idea of how much ingenuity and sheer hard work it takes behind the scenes to keep the printing press well fed. What would we know about the world's great writers and composers, scientists and engineers, politicians and economists, for example, if they had not put down their ideas in writing? And what would have been the point of inventing the printing press without paper? Furthermore, how many Nobel prizewinners would there be without reading and writing?

But the very people who make paper possible in today's high qualities at such low cost are not necessarily known even to insiders. Some international paper industry leaders, therefore, thought about improving this situation, how the most outstanding of these people could be honoured in an appropriate manner. So with the assistance of the Neenah Historical Society, in 1992 they founded the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in Wisconsin, USA. The declared aim of this institution is to make public outstanding achievements in the paper industry, and pay due tribute to the persons responsible. Induction into the Hall of Fame is reserved for those who have made outstanding contributions for the benefit of the entire paper industry, whether in research and development, engineering or management.



One of the few personalities to be honoured with this high distinction since 1992 is Herbert Ortner, long-standing head of Voith Stock Preparation Technology, and from 1994 to 1998 Senior Vice President Integrated Paper Mill Projects, Voith Sulzer Paper Technology Heidenheim, Germany, with main emphasis on Far-East and Southeast Asia. He received the award last year for his outstanding contributions to modern papermaking technology based on well-founded scientific methods and principles, in particular with regard to the preparation of recovered paper.

Herbert Ortner combined his vast knowledge of the entire papermaking process with innovative ideas and a great deal of foresight. He played a decisive role, for example, in developing the flotation deinking process. The worldwide breakthrough of recycling as a fundamentally environment friendly and economical principle in the paper industry today was



largely achieved thanks to his enthusiasm, determination and sheer hard work. Herbert Ortner was convinced long ago that in a world more conscious of the need to conserve resources, the recycling of recovered paper would be necessary for the future of a paper industry bound to global responsibility and credibility.

His publications and presentations, his ideas and patents cover an enormous range of themes. Apart from his pioneering work in flotation deinking, he has also played a decisive role in paper surface sizing developments, coating methods, preparation of recovered paper, dispersion, refining, screening and in the development of various process-oriented systems and machinery.

Herbert Ortner is a member of the Academic Society of Paper Engineers (APV) at Graz Technical University, Austria; the Austrian Association for Pulp and Paper Chemistry and Technology (OEZEPA); the Institution of Pulp and Paper Chemists and Engineers (ZELLCHEMING), and the Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI).

On September 30, 1998, Herbert Ortner entered his well-earned retirement at the age of 66. Dr. Herbert Ortner continues to be available to the company as a special consultant. The editorial team of Together Magazine sincerely congratulates him on this well deserved tribute to his life work and achievements. And we are joined in this congratulation by all his

colleagues and friends at Voith Sulzer Paper Technology, who owe a good deal of their international recognition to his outstanding work.

Fig. 1: The flotation deinking process – a development in which Herbert Ortner played a decisive role.

Fig. 2: Together with Herbert Ortner (centre) seven outstanding personalities from the paper industry and papermaking technology were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1999.

Fig. 3: Among the first people to congratulate Herbert Ortner were his wife, Christa Ortner-Fiala (left), Martina Mann-Voith, the daughter of Hanns Voith, and Werner Witek, Senior Vice President Voith Sulzer Paper Technology USA.

2



3