

PAPERMAKERS AND COATERS UNITE IN A “RECIPE FOR SUCCESS”

HANS W. MAURER

DIVISIONS HOLD JOINT CONFERENCE AND TRADE FAIR IN NEW ORLEANS

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE JOINT COATING-PAPERMAKERS Conference and Trade Fair was a huge success. Experts from around the world met at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, LA, in May 1998 to review progress in papermaking and paper coating. The joint event had been organized by the Coating & Graphic Arts Division and the Paper and Board Division. Bob Kearney of Penford Products Co. was chairman of the coating section of the conference and Lyn Stryker of Specialty Minerals Inc. chairman of the papermaker section. Both stood together as the conference opened, symbolizing close cooperation between the two divisions. The chairmen of the Technical Program Committees were Ron VanGilder of Dow Chemical Co. for papers on coating and printing and Mick Bekk of Beloit for the papermaking part. They had established a joint program in four parallel tracks that addressed all current aspects and concerns of our two interdependent industries. TAPPI support was exemplary throughout all stages of preparation and during the conference.

The conference opened with a reception on Sunday. It was an opportunity to meet old friends and to make new acquaintances. The newcomers were invited into the ballroom first. Dale Dill, President of TAPPI and the two Divisions chairs, Hans Maurer and Diane Murdock welcomed them and introduced them to TAPPI, its functions, and its mission.

The Coating/Papermaker Conference had a record registration of 1487 people. A huge Trade Fair added to the presence at the site. Technical papers were offered in four parallel tracks. All committees of both Divisions held separate sessions. A Meet-the-Expert Breakfast, a Prayer Breakfast, and a 5 K Fun Run brought diverse groups together. A large number of posters lined the networking area. The atmosphere was saturated with opportunities to acquire and exchange information..



Division chairs Diane Murdock, left, of the Paper and Board Division, and Hans Maurer, for Coating & Graphic Arts.

The two Divisions had joint meetings for the Opening Session, the commemoration of the invention of the paper machine, and the Awards Luncheon. Gerard Closset, Vice President of Engineering for Champion International, set a more serious tone in his keynote address than has been common at past division conferences. He commented on the present global economic climate and the need to succeed in the face of increasing competitive pressures. Peter Wrist, retired President of PAPRICAN, described the events that led to the invention of the paper machine by Nicholas-Louis Robert 200 years ago and the great strides that our industry has made since that time. He was introduced by Alfred Nissan, a fellow TAPPI Gold Medal winner, who had elucidated the forces that bond cellulose fibers into paper. At the Awards Luncheon, Frank Rydzewski, President and General Manager of Penford Products Co. challenged the audience to cope better

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John Luciu, of JWI Group, presented one of the posters.



The joint Trade Fair attracted lots of visitors.

with increasing demands due to downsizing and global competition. He distributed printer's loupes as a reminder that many problems may have a source in small detail that should not be overlooked.

The coating segment of the conference featured a strong technical program. A record number of papers and posters addressed all segments of the coating process and related issues of base stock properties, coating components, calendaring, technical trends, and printing. Major areas of interest were: experience with high speed coating, runnability and rheology aspects, coating structure development, and coated paper use for printing, especially ink jet printing. Reinhard Sangl of Germany's Papiertechnische Stiftung (PTS) gave a report on the 1997 PTS Symposium on Coating Technology in Munich.

The papermaking segment of the conference had been organized on short notice, since only seven months had passed since the 1997 Engineering/Papermakers Conference in Nashville, TN. Technical papers addressed a variety of issues in stock preparation, wet end chemistry, and general papermaking. Most of the events were conducted as Panel Discussions. Some of them dealt with issues of interest to both Divisions, such as forming an optimum sheet for printing grades, optimizing coated grades via new technology, and coated broke management. Other panels focused on the use of shoe presses for fine papers, effective drying and pressing principles, and mill water system closure.

The Trade Fair set another record with 86 exhibitors. The concurrent New Technologies Showcase had 34 speakers, many of them introducing the audience to exhibits at the Trade Fair. Both events offered unique opportunities to bring suppliers and their customers together, and to inform about new equipment, processes, and materials.

The Pub and Poster Session provided a forum to blend information with entertainment. The posters

stayed in the networking area throughout the conference and attracted many inquiries. Abstracts of all posters were published in the Proceedings of the conference.

At the Meet-the-Expert Breakfast, a large number of tables had been set up and labeled by topics. This setting facilitated an informal exchange of information. At the Prayer Breakfast, Lewis Wheeler, Director of Development-Campus Outreach Ministries, spoke on "Significance in an Insignificant World." Campus Outreach is a non-denominational discipleship ministry to college campuses worldwide. The 5 K Fun Run took the participants through a park in New Orleans. The event was won by Steve Ottone of Reichhold Chemical Co. and Kay Sanborn of Rohm & Haas.

The conference provided the stage for many awards. Certificates of Appreciation were given to the outgoing committee chairmen of both divisions. The Paper and Board Division announced the winners of various scholarship programs, a practice that will be taken up by the Coating & Graphic Arts Division at the 1999 Coating Conference in Toronto, Canada. Robert W. Carlson, Research Project Manager at Boise Cascade Research in Portland, OR, received a Special Certificate of Appreciation from the Coating & Graphic Arts Division. The certificate honored his dedicated service to the Basestock Committee, his active involvement in the Technical Program Committee for the coating conference, and his contributions to organizing the two Metered Size Press Forums of the Coating & Graphic Arts Division.

The Leadership and Service Awards went to Dale F. Gordon, Converting Division Superintendent at P.H. Glatfelter in Spring Grove, PA, and to Ellen B. Warner, Special projects Manager Paper Mill, Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, NY. Both have made outstanding contributions to their divisions. Gordon was for many years the Committee Coordinator on the Steering Committee of the Coating & Graphic Arts Division. He assured that



Awards: (top left) Wayne Damrau, right, the Coaters' Technical Award winner, receives the Charles W. Engelhard Medallion and prize from Richard Berube; (center left) Bill Skaggs, left, presents the Protein Technologies International Medallion and prize to Dale Gordon, the Coating Divisions Leadership And Service Award winner; (bottom left) Ellen Warner, left, receives the Papermakers' Leadership and Service Award from Dale Dill; (above) Bill Scott, right, receives the Paper & Board Division's Technical Award from Dale Dill.



Steve Ottone, above left, of Reichhold, and Kay Sanborn, of Rohm & Haas, were top finishers in the 5K Fun Run.

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Cheryl Reimold, left, taught the "Leading an Interactive Session" workshop; the Coating & Graphic Arts Division's Steering Committee, above, met before the conference; Frank Rydzewski, president and general manager of Penford Products, spoke at the awards luncheon.



committee assignments (CA) were established and completed in due time. Warner had been a session developer and technical program chair in the Paper & Board Division and had organized the joint conference plans to better serve the TAPPI customers.

The highest awards of both Divisions, the Technical Awards, went to Wayne A. Damrau, Engineering & Coater Research manager at the Research & Development Division of Consolidated Papers Inc. and William E. Scott, professor of paper science and engineering at Miami University, OH. Damrau was honored for his outstanding achievements as an inventor. He is the "father" of the short dwell coater, which has revolutionized the coated paper industry, and he made the jet applicator for high speed paper coating practical and applicable. Scott is a prolific author and academician. He has written two TAPPI PRESS books and two TAPPI home study courses. He has served on the TAPPI Board of Directors and is a TAPPI Fellow. At the conclusion of the conference, the outgoing chairs of the two divisions, Hans Maurer of the Coating & Graphic Arts Division and Diana Murdock of the Paper & Board Division were honored.



TAPPI President Dale Dill, left, and TAPPI Executive Director Wayne Gross, right, chat with Champion International's Gerard Closset, who gave the keynote address.

New Orleans was a great site for numerous diversions for conference attendees and their spouses. The weather was great throughout the conference. Many took the opportunity to enjoy the culinary part of the "Recipe for Success," which had been the conference theme. Watching the alligators was another favored pastime. The Jazz Festival offered a unique, musical attraction. The spouses program listed its attractions a-la-carte, which allowed choice and alternatives. The program had been arranged again by John O'Shea.

The proceedings of the Conference were published in two heavy volumes with more than 1000 pages. The proceedings are also available on CD-ROM which was distributed to all conference registrants. For ordering information contact the TAPPI Service Line at 1 800 332-8686 (US), 1 800 446-9431 (Canada), or +1 770 209-7303. This marks another step in the rapid evolution of the Coating Conference. Last year saw the advent of "Power Point" as a preferred presentation tool, this year's conference was developed electronically by email and the Internet.

Preparations are already underway for the next conferences. The 1999 Coating Conference and Trade Fair will take place at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, ON, Canada, during the first week of May. The conference will be preceded by the 5th Coating Fundamentals Symposium. Special events are being planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Coating & Graphic Arts Division. The 1999 Papermaker Conference will be a mega-event with several other TAPPI Divisions. The conference will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA, during the first week of March. Calls for papers for both conferences have already been issued. We are anticipating exciting events that will make TAPPI history. TJ

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