

TAGA HONORS AWARD 1989

to

H. BRENT ARCHER

for his over 40 years in graphic arts study, research, development and consulting over 25 of which were spent at RIT with 21 in the Graphic Arts Research Center where he authored 15 papers published in the TAGA Proceedings; for his research on tone reproduction, image quality and halftone reproduction which led to the development of the Kodak Q-700 system and the 3M QA Calculator; and for his development of computer software for commercial digital image processing equipment and systems, TAGA honors H. Brent Archer.



H. BRENT ARCHER is a photographic and printing scientist whose involvement with the graphic arts goes back to high school days when he and his friends painfully processed color photographs in the Archer basement in 1940. This was the start of a lifelong connection with image reproduction which has led to his recognition as a world-renowned authority on tone reproduction.

Brent served in the Merchant Marine in World War II, after which he entered the School of Photography at RIT. After graduation in 1952, he joined the Graphic Arts Research Center (GARC) at RIT where he studied the application of electronic densitometry to quality control in printing reproduction. His first association with TAGA was the annual technical conference in 1954, where he presented his first paper. He designed a scanning densitometer for measuring press sheets in 1955.

Brent left RIT in 1956 to organize the Litho-Color Division of University Microfilms that was based on a direct screen color separation process. In 1957, he went to England to work on the development of the Crosfield Scana-tron, an early color separation scanner, and the Gammatron, a photographic processor using infra-red sensing. In 1961, Brent returned to RIT's School of Printing as an instructor in reproduction photography. In 1965, he rejoined GARC where he spent much of the next sixteen years in research and development which is documented in 31 papers, 14 of which were presented at TAGA Annual Conferences and published in TAGA Proceedings. He is the third most prolific author of TAGA papers after John Yule and Richard Maurer. His most significant accomplishment was the calculation of halftone exposures which led to the development of the Kodak Q-700 system and the 3M QA Calculator.

Brent retired from RIT in 1981 to form his own consulting company, Archer Technologies, Inc. His major client has been Chesley F. Carlson Co. where he has developed computer software for digital image processing that led to the development of the popular Carlson Sharpshooter and the new prescan analysis system, ScanCal.