

TAGA  
HONORS AWARD 1994  
to  
DR. KURT SCHLÄPFER  
EMPA/UGRA  
Switzerland



*for his 33 years of dedicated services to graphic arts and education at EMPA/UGRA in Switzerland, his research on photo sensitive coatings for platemaking leading to the development of the world famous UGRA control scales, colorimetry in graphic arts, theory of color reproduction including metamerism between color originals, proofs and press prints, development of frequency modulated (FM-stochastic) screening algorithms, as author of a book on colorimetry in the Graphic Arts, recipient of the Gold Medal of the Institute of Printing, his service as research associate and Head of the Printing Technology Department of UGRA and Deputy Managing Director of EMPA, as Visiting Professor in Bangkok, Honorary Professor at the University of St. Gall, past president of IARIGAI, a member of TAGA for over 20 years and the author of five significant papers, TAGA honors Dr. Kurt Schläpfer.*

DR. KURT SCHLÄPFER is Division Manager and Deputy Managing Director of EMPA (the Swiss Federal Institute for Materials Testing and Research) situated in St. Gall, Switzerland, site of a famous medieval cathedral, and near the shores of beautiful Lake Constance. Kurt is a native of St. Gall and studied Chemical Engineering at the Swiss Federal Technical University of Zurich where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1961. After graduation he worked on a doctor's thesis program dealing with an investigation of light sensitive coatings for lithographic platemaking. He received his Doctor in General Science degree in 1964.

During his thesis work he joined the staff of EMPA as a research associate in Printing Technology. In 1973 he became Head of the Printing Technology Department and was responsible for all projects of the Swiss Association for Graphic Arts Research (UGRA). In this capacity he directed most of the work on the development of the highly regarded and widely used UGRA scales for measurement and control of reproduction in platemaking.

During this period Kurt traveled extensively throughout the Far East on consulting assignments for EMPA/UGRA and was a Visiting Professor for Printing Technology at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. For more than 20 years he has been a lecturer in communication technology and color reproduction at the University of Saint Gall which has distinguished him with the title of Honorary Professor.

Throughout his illustrious career, Kurt has been very active in the International Association of Research Institutes for the Graphic Arts Industry (IARIGAI). He has presented 13 papers on research conducted at EMPA/UGRA at IARIGAI's biennial technical conferences. He has also been instrumental in coordinating the research programs of the individual institutes and encouraging cooperative research between them. He has served as a member of the IARIGAI council for a number of years, as its Vice Chairman, and was its Chairman from 1985-1991. In 1993, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Institute of Printing for his over 150 publications in Graphic Arts research, and published the second edition of his book "Colorimetry in the Graphic Arts Industry".

Kurt joined TAGA in 1973 and has authored five very significant papers, of which three have been co-authored with Dr. Erwin Widmer. Three of the papers are on stochastic (FM) screening which has excited tremendous interest in the industry during the past year. One is on metamerism which has been a source of considerable concern in color reproduction. The other paper is on a comparison of the color gamuts of printing and TV which is related to the process of color calibration and conversion from RGB to CMYK in color reproduction. A very significant and enlightening report by Schlapfer and Widmer at the 1993 IARIGAI conference in Munich was on the information content of common communication media in which the distinguishable gray levels by the human eye was compared with those in photographs, printing processes, and TV.

Dr. Kurt Schläpfer and his associates at UGRA are to be highly complimented on their very significant contributions to the advancements of the technologies driving printing and its allied industries forward.