TAGA
HONORS AWARD 2001
to
DR. WILLIAM J. RAY

for his almost 25 years in the computer technologies that are infusing digital printing into conventional printing; for his company with three divisions that comprise an all electronic prepress facility, a high reliability optical character/document recognition facility, and a group that develops software for graphic arts companies; for his services as an adjunct professor at Michigan State University; for his seven papers at TAGA Conferences and 14 articles in the trade press; and for services on its Board since 1995, TAGA honors Dr. William J. Ray.

Dr. William J. (Bill) Ray is a distinguished newcomer to the graphic arts community. He is a computer technology expert who became involved with printing in 1990. He has a BS degree in Physics and Chemistry, a Masters degree in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Biophysics. He spent seven years in cybernetics research (study of human control functions using computers) before starting a software house that built products for large scale complex information systems. In 1987 he became an Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University, an activity in which he is still engaged.

In 1990 Bill founded and became president of Group InfoTech, Inc. in East Lansing, Michigan which is the holding organization for three separate companies, Electrographics, DataCom and InfoTech. Electrographics, Inc. is a state of the art graphics prepress and documentation group. DataCom is a developer of high reliability optical character/document recognition software. InfoTech is a research and development group that is a developer of custom software for graphic arts and performs industrial research for internal and contract use. During the past four years InfoTech has developed and implements a new approach to automating printing plants. It is Page Level Automation (PLA) which is a CIM (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) system designed to convert craft based printing plants into system based manufacturing environments. It was developed in conjunction with Valassis Communications, leading newspaper insert printer with three plants where over 80% of the prepress labor was eliminated while product flexibility was improved.

Bill was attracted to TAGA in 1992 and has been a very active member since. He presented his first paper in 1993 and six more since. He was elected to the TAGA Board of Directors in 1995 and on completions of his term was elected to serve two terms as Vice President of Technical Papers. Bill has also been active in other graphic arts activities. He served as the chairman of the GCA Workflow Committee in 1992 and wrote 14 articles for the trade press - mainly High Volume Printing magazine. For the very important role he is playing in the gradual digitalization of the printing industry TAGA distinguishes Dr. William J. Ray with the 2001 TAGA Honors Award.