

*In memoriam***Prof. emeritus John W.S. Hearle  
(1925 -2016)**

Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle, doyen in the textiles and one of the most respected and known scientists in the field of textile science and technology, active member of The Textile Institute, Manchester, UK, passed away on May the 24th 2016.

Professor emeritus John W. S. Hearle was born on June the 5th 1925. He graduated in physics from the University of Cambridge in 1949, as the first in his class, and earned his doctorate in 1952 from the University of Manchester. He was a scientific associate at the Shirley Institute (established in 1920 as the British Cotton Industry Research Association) from 1945 to 1948. He started his academic career in the field of textile technology in 1949 at the University of Manchester, the Institute of Science and Technology, Department of textiles and continued to work there until his retirement in 1985. From 1949 to 1962, he was a lecturer and then a professor in the field of textile technology. In the course of his work he was the head of the Department of textiles (from 1974 to 1985) and the dean of the Faculty of Technology, University of Manchester (from 1979 to 1980).

Prof. Hearle was a postdoctoral associate at the University of Calmeson, South Caroline in 1953, and from 1963 to 1964 a guest professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After retirement in 1985 he was an honorary visiting professor at the University of Delaware (USA) - a visiting professor of mechanical engineering from 1986 to 1988 and a visiting professor of material science from 1989 to 1990. Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle was also a visiting professor at the Fibres department of DU PONT, as well as at numerous other educational and scientific institutions.

Professor Hearle was the president of the independent consulting group Tension Technology International (TTI) from 1986 to 1995.

His primary scientific interest and field of investigation were textile fibres, yarns, cordages, high-performance textile and their mechanical properties, together with the scientific and industrial development in fibres and textiles for garment and engineering purposes.

Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle published a considerable number of scientific papers, more than 250 according to the Scopus, Web of Science and Springer bases, as well as 14 books, respected as „the Bible of textile science and technology“ around the world. He participated in the workings of numerous conferences and gave lectures at a lot of universities and renowned institutions, including MIT, NATO, Du Pont and the University of Delaware (USA).

Professor emeritus John W. S. Hearle also won a number of awards and recognitions, took active part in committees and professional associations, some of the most important being: associate of The Textile Institute (since 1960, being elected vice-president from 1987 to 1990, and the President of the Council of The Textile Institute from 1993 to 1995), associate of the Institute of Physics (since 1960), the winner of the medal of the Technical University in Prague on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the University (in 1961), the winner of the Warner medal (1967), honorary reward of The Textile Institute (in 1984), he was the editor-in-chief of the Journal



Fig. 1 Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle's plenary lecture at the 7th ITC&DC 2014 conference in Dubrovnik



Fig. 2 Prof. emeritus John W.S. Hearle with his wife Anna at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Textile, Clothing & Design Conference in Dubrovnik 2014

of The Textile Institute (from 1987 to 2000), winner of The Textile Institute medal for 2010, honorary member of The Fibre Society (USA), a member of the British Society of Rheology.

Prof. emeritus John W.S. Hearle was a member of the ITC&DC (International Textile, Clothing & Design Conference - Magic World of Textiles) Scientific Committee, organised traditionally by the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Textile Technology. At the 7th ITC&DC 2014 conference, held from October 5th to October 8th 2014 in Dubrovnik, professor emeritus John W. S. Hearle gave a plenary lecture entitled „**From Calculators to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Computing: Successes and Opportunities in Digital Technology for Textiles**“ (Fig. 1), and shared his rich experience and knowledge unselfishly with the participants of our conference.

We were especially honoured as Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle personally expressed his wish to participate in our conference, as he was eager to meet his doctoral students and colleagues that collaborated with him for a number of years.

We are sincerely obliged and thankful to Professor emeritus John W.S. Hearle on his dedicated work and research in the field of textile technology. We have been turning repeatedly to his profound and comprehensive knowledge and experience in his numerous papers and scientific books, and we shall continue to do so.