

A COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE



Chief Editor & Compiler :
Mason Brown

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ABHISHEK

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Preface

Textiles are fibres that are spun into yarn or made into fabric by weaving, knitting, braiding, and felting. The term is now applicable to natural and synthetic filaments, yarns, and threads as well as to the woven, knitted, felted, tufted, braided, bonded, knotted, and embroidered fabrics. The spinning and weaving were one of the first crafts that is believed to have been practiced as early as the New Stone Age. In ancient Egypt, the earliest textiles were woven from flax in India, Peru, and Cambodia, from cotton in the Southern European; from wool in China.

Textile also includes non-woven fabrics produced by mechanically or chemically bonding fibres. Computerised textile mill with multiple machines run continuously to produce textiles in the modern market. In a mill, the initial stage of processing fibre into fabric is almost entirely coordinated and controlled by computer. Computers are able to execute complex weaving and spinning jobs with great speed and accuracy. Most are equipped with monitoring sensors that will stop production if an error is detected.

The initial stage of textile manufacturing involves the production of the raw material either by farmers who raise cotton, sheep, silkworms, or flax or by chemists who produce fibre from various basic substances by chemical processes. The fibre is spun into yarn, which is then processed into fabric in a weaving or knitting mill. After dyeing and finishing, the woven material is ready for delivery either directly to a manufacturer of textile products

to finally get stitched into clothes that we wear.

This book gives you an insight for terminology used in the textile industry. It should be helpful for everyone who is associated with garment, and textile industry.

■ **aba**

a loose cloak, possibly of Arabian origin related to the Jama in men's wear.

■ **abaca**

this vegetable leaf fibre is derived from the *Musa* textiles plant. It is mainly grown in the Philippines but is also found, in smaller amounts in Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia and Costa Rica. The fibre is obtained from the outer layer of the leaf. Processing occurs when it is separated mechanically decorticated into lengths varying from 3 to 9 feet. Abaca is very strong and has great lustre. It is very resistant to damage from salt water.

■ **abho**

a loose shirt-like garment, worn by women mostly in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The garment is generally worn with short, wide sleeves, open at the neck, loose-fitting on the upper part and really flared in its skirt. Often decorated with embroidery and mirror-glass work.

■ **absorbency**

the ability of a fabric to take in moisture. Absorbency is a very important property, which affects many other characteristics such as skin comfort, static build-up, shrinkage, stain removal, water repellence, and wrinkle recovery.

■ **abstract**

refers to a design in the abstract style, i.e. one that represents a general form and not an accurate representation of a subject.

■ **accessories**

additional ornamentation to accompany the garment in order to create a certain look/image. (shoes, jewellery etc.)



■ **accordion**

1x1 rib knit alternating with a 2x2 rib.

■ acetate

1. acetate, one of the first manufactured fibres is soft and has a crisp feel. It has the lustrous appearance of silk and excellent drapability. It is not a strong fibre, as its resistance to abrasion is poor. It does resist shrinkage, moths, and mildew and does not absorb moisture readily. Its yarns are pliable and supple and will always sprig back to their original shape. It is fast drying and when heated becomes more pliable. Acetone and alcohol dissolve acetate fibres. Special dyes are required if it is to be coloured. Today acetate can be found in a variety of colours.

2. the term used to describe fibres of cellulose ethanoate (acetate) wherein between 74% and 92% of the hydroxyl groups of the original cellulose are ethanoylated (acetylated). Purified cellulose is ethanoylated (acetylated) by ethanoic anhydride (acetic anhydride) in the presence of a catalyst (such as sulphuric acid or perchloric acid) in a solvent such as dichloromethane (methylene

chloride) or ethanoic (acetic) acid. The reaction proceeds until primary cellulose acetate containing 60% of combined ethanoic acid is formed. Secondary cellulose acetate is formed from the primary acetate by partial hydrolysis. It is obtained by adding water in excess of that required to react with the residual ethanoic anhydride, which thus allows the hydrolysis to take place.

■ acetone-soluble cellulose ethanoate

when the hydrolysis of primary cellulose ethanoate (acetate) is allowed to proceed until approximately 54% of combined ethanoic (acetic) acid remains in the product, the cellulose acetate is soluble in propanone (acetone) and is sometimes known as acetone-soluble cellulose acetate.

■ acetylation

the process of introducing an ethanoyl (acetyl) radical into an organic molecule.

■ achkan

a men's long-sleeved coat-like garment, worn close to the

body, reaching down to the knees or even lower, and buttoned in front-middle.

■ acid dye

an anionic dye characterised by substantiality for protein and polyamide fibres and usually applied from an acidic or neutral dye bath.

■ acrylic

1. it is manufactured fibres of acrylonitrile. It is a durable fibre with a soft, woolly feel. It has an uneven surface, making it different from most manufactured fibres. It comes in a variety of colours, and can be dyed easily. It is resistant to sun and chemicals.

2. a term used to describe fibres composed of synthetic linear macromolecules having in the chain at least 85% (by mass) of recurring cyanoethene (acrylonitrile) groups.

■ acrylic coated

a fabric which has been coated, generally on the back, with acrylic resin to make it water-proof or dawn proof.

■ affinity

the quantitative expression of substantiality. It is the difference between the chemical potential of the dye in its standard state in the fibre and the corresponding chemical potential in the dye bath.

■ agneline

a black woollen fabric with a very long nap. It is coarse and heavy. When stretched the fibres tighten and become water resistant.

■ aguillettes

metal-tagged laces that replace the sewn ones, to attach the breeches to the doublet.

■ air laying

a method of forming a web (or batt) of staple fibres in which the fibres are dispersed into an air stream and condensed from the air stream on to a permeable cage or conveyor.

■ albatross

a lightweight, plain weave fabric traditionally of wool or wool blends with a napped, fleecy surface. So named because the texture resembles the breast of

an albatross. Usually light in colour, used in infant's wear, sleep wears.

■ albert cloth

it has a double layer of wool and is reversible. Faces and backs may vary in colour and pattern. Provides additional warmth and body.

■ alencon lace

a needlepoint lace on a fine net ground characterised by a heavy thread (cordon net) outlining the design. Usually machine made but sometimes the cordon net is inserted by hand.

■ alginate (fibre) (generic name)

a term used to describe fibres composed of metallic salts of alginic acid.

■ alkali-cellulose

the product of the interaction of strong sodium hydroxide with purified cellulose. note: in the manufacture of viscose fibres, the cellulose may be cotton linters or wood-pulp. After pressing, alkali-cellulose usually contains approximately 30% of cellulose and 15% of sodium hy-

droxide, the remainder being water. During the steeping of the cellulose in sodium hydroxide (18-20% w/w) to form the alkali-cellulose, soluble impurities, including soluble cellulose are removed.

■ alley

the area between the breaker carding and finisher carding machines in which the alley tender works.

■ alligator skin

a design, printed or embossed, that suggests the characteristic texture of an alligator.

■ allonge-perruque

French term for periwig, also called state-wig. Worn by fashionable men in the late 17th, early 18th century, introduced probably by Louis XIV and usually in black or dark brown shades. The periwig had very high 'horns' on top of the forehead and was extremely long, curled and flowing down the back and over the shoulders.

■ allover lace

general term for a wide lace in which the pattern covers the full

width of the fabric. It is generally sold and cut in the same way as non-lace fabrics.

■ alpaca

a natural hair fibre obtained from the Alpaca sheep, a domesticated member of the llama family. The fibre is most commonly used in fabrics made into dresses, suits, coats, and sweaters. Also imitated in wool, wool and alpaca, rayon, mohair and rayon or cotton and a cotton warp and alpaca filling also synthetics e.g. orlon.

Fine, silk-like, soft, lightweight and warm. It is very rich and silky with considerable lustre and resembles mohair. If guard hairs are used, it is inclined to be beardy. It is strong and durable. Alpaca is found in white, black, fawn or grey. The fibres are less coarse than those of the llama but are higher in tensile strength.

■ alter

to change the pattern so that it corresponds to body measurements.

■ amadis Sleeve

tight-fitting sleeve continuing

on the back of the hand, invented in 1684 by Mlle le Rochois, an actress at the opera, who had unsightly arms.

■ anaphe

a wild silk from the larvae of the Anaphe moth.

■ angarakfia

a long, full-sleeved outerwear for men, literally 'that which protects or covers the limbs'. Closely related to the Jama (q.v.), but possibly of native, Indian origin. Generally open at the chest and tied in front, with an inner flap or parda covering the chest. Full-skirted and of varying lengths.

■ angiaiangika

short, tight-fitting bodice worn by women in India from very early times. Literally, 'covering for the body'.

■ angora

the hair of the angora rabbit. The origin of the angora breed is unclear. It is believed to come from France, developed from a mutation in a wild rabbit, in the 18th century. Note: the hair of the Angora goat is

referred to as mohair.

■ **angora goat**

scoured mohair appears smooth and white. It varies in fineness and is highly resilient, very strong and has high lustre. Its value is determined by its lustre and not its softness.

Used extensively in industries such as carpet, upholstery, curtain and automobile cloth.

■ **angora rabbit**

hair from the angora rabbit. It is indigenous to Asia Minor and Turkey. Often blended and mixed with wool to lower the price of the finished article or to obtain fancy or novelty effects.

■ **anidex (fibre)**

a term used to describe fibres made from a synthetic linear polymer that consists of at least 50% by mass of one or more esters of a monohydric alcohol and propenoic acid (acrylic acid).

■ **animal skin**

refers to a design which suggests the skin of an animal. Leopard, tiger, zebra and gi-

raffe are popular motifs.

■ **anionic dye**

a dye that dissociates in aqueous solution to give a negatively charged ion.

■ **anti bacterial**

finish that makes a fabric resistant to the growth of bacteria.

■ **anti pill**

a finish applied to fleece which involves shearing the surface so that the fabric is less likely to pill.

■ **antique satin**

a reversible fabric, one side looks like satin and the other side like shantung. It often has a dark warp, which enhances the texture. Often used for draperies.

■ **antique taffeta**

a stiff plain weave fabric, often iridescent, with a stubbed weft. May be of silk or synthetics.

■ **antron**

brand of nylon fibre trademarked by the Du Pont Co.

■ **apparent wall thickness**

the apparent width of a fibre

wall as seen under the microscope. In the maturity test for cotton, the apparent wall thickness is assessed visually at the widest part of the fibres as a fraction of the maximum ribbon width.

■ aramid

1. this strong fibre does not have a melting point and is flame proof. It retains its shape, even at high temperatures and is resistant to stretch.

2. a term used to describe fibres composed of synthetic linear macromolecules having in the chain recurring amide groups, at least 85% of which are joined directly by two aromatic rings and in which amide groups may be substituted for up to 50% of the amide groups.

■ argentan lace

a needlepoint lace on a net ground similar to alencon lace but on a larger net and without the cordon net outline thread of alencon.

■ argyle

a design of various coloured diamond shaped blocks on a single

coloured ground, usually crossed by lines in a diamond shape.

■ armour

cotton, silk, wool, rayon, synthetics, and blends. Plain, twill, or rib, background often has a small design either jacquard or dobby made with warp floats on surface giving a raised effect. Design is often in two colours and rose. The name was derived from original fabric, which was woven with a small-interlaced design of chain armour and used for military equipment during the Crusades.

■ art linen

it is woven with even threads that are especially good for embroidery. It is very easy to 'draw' the yarns for drawn thread work. Comes bleached, or coloured. Has a soft finish.

■ art/embroidery linen

a balanced plain weave fabric usually of linen or linen/cotton. It is made from smooth round yarns (not flattened by calendering). Used as a base for em-