



Graphics Arts Technology Centre Newsletter - October 2003

It's that time of year when people across the industry get together to discuss all matters great & small. And your independent Graphic Arts Technology Centre has been in the thick of it, presenting technical papers at two national events.

2003 LIA Biennial National Conference, Geelong Victoria

Water Hardness Project – Stage II The Effect of Water Hardness on the Printability of Coated Paper

The theme for this year's conference was "Industry in Crisis –implementing change for profit." Accordingly, the key note speakers dealt principally with business practice. As has been the practice at previous conferences, LIA NSW arranged the technical presentation.

Independent Ink Technologies (IIT) has been conducting Stage II of this project during 2003, examining the influence of water hardness in the lithographic printing process.

Stage I, "The Effect Of Water Hardness on Lithographic Ink Performance" funded by the Collie Trust, was undertaken by IIT during 2001 under the auspices of the Lithographic Institute of Australia (LIA).

The results of Stage I were presented at the LIA's 2001 National Conference.

Stage II, jointly sponsored by the LIA and Australian Paper, investigates a real life application problem associated with the effects of water and its hardness on ink lay and the development of second impression mottle on coated papers.

The results of Stage II of this LIA NSW initiative, has been much anticipated and was presented at LIA's 2003 National Conference, October 17 & 18 in Geelong by LIA's Greg Grace and IIT's Gordon Cole.

The LIA is now planning to publish the full report in the one document, covering all the findings from Stages I & II:

What influence does water hardness have on paper performance?

Does it affect ink lay and dot reproduction?

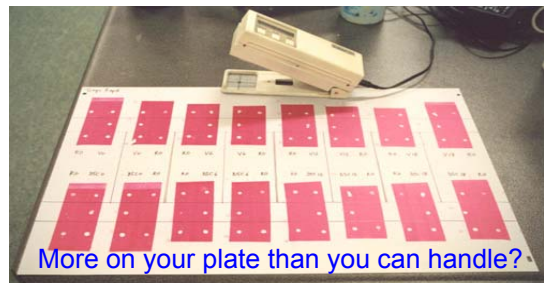
Does increased hardness cause scumming or tinting?

How does it affect wet mottle?

Does it really influence lithographic balance and plate clean up rates?

Can we simply use tap water?

All will be revealed when the final document becomes available in December 2003. Contact your local LIA office to order your copy, either on CD or hard copy, of this important research paper.



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2003 Single Width Users Conference	Benchmarking and Quality Assurance (QA)
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The Single Width Users Group (SWUG) Conference was held over the weekend of 20-22 September in the Riverina's principal city, Wagga Wagga, at Joyes Hall, Charles Sturt University.

The host for this years technical forum was Wagga Wagga's own Daily Advertiser, with support from the City Council and all delegates were made to feel very welcome.

The theme of the 2003 Conference was "Consistency Out Of Your Press". As usual, there was a select group of specialist guest presenters on hand, including IIT's Gordon Cole, who delivered a paper on the contribution of ink to print quality and what is required to maintain consistency.

It had been several years since a technical paper on ink had been delivered at a SWUG Conference and the presentation was well received by printers and inkies alike.

IIT's Wayne Johnstone was also a judge on the panel to select this years winning entrants in the SWUG Annual Awards.



Is this
a) a Dalek
b) a peep show
c) a man and his Goniometer?
Get your copy of the report on the Water Hardness project from the LIA

*Remember this?
"You may call Wagga Wagga, Wagga.
But don't call Woy Woy, Woy."
The late Spike Milligan*

At a time when the Graphic Arts Industry is embracing the concept of Benchmarking to promote improved business practices, let us not overlook the importance of the quality of inputs into the printing process.

Benchmarking and Quality Assurance (QA) of printing consumables are as pertinent today as ever with regard to consistent print quality. And let's not forget that it is the printing process and presses that are creating the industry's saleable product.

Benchmarking of your printing consumables (inks, fountains, washes, paper) permits:

- definition of current performance status
- setting of tolerances for performance (specification range)
- easy comparisons – batch to batch
– to alternative products
- setting of targets for ongoing improvement

Once the benchmark is set, QA testing helps to ensure it is consistently met.

The IT industry has often quoted the acronym: GIGO = Garbage In, Garbage Out. Taking a more positive bent, perhaps the motto for our industry should be CICO =

**Consistent Inputs,
Consistent Output.**

Independent Ink Technologies, Australia's world class free enterprise graphic arts technology centre can offer all these services and already does so with many of Australia's quality printers. Why not give us a call and let one of our four highly qualified staff demonstrate how IIT can assist you to print more consistently, reduce wastage and save money.

IIT – Australia's world class Graphic Arts Technology Centre.

If you have a print problem or require assistance with the purchase of ink, paper or press related consumables, why not call IIT for advice? IIT now helps printers, ink makers and paper companies in Europe, China, USA, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Korea, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia.