



# Dictionary of textiles

*Harmuth Louis*

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## PREFACE

The tendency in modern books of a technical character undoubtedly inclines very strongly toward encyclopedic and dictionary forms. The cry for the saving of lime calls for books in compact form with information handy at a moment's notice.

The present DICTIONARY is the result of 7 1/2 years of collecting and compiling information, gained to a large extent in connection with my work on the Daily Trade Record and Women's Wear. With over 6,600 terms and definitions contained in it, this DICTIONARY is as nearly complete, in number of terms strictly relating to textile fibres and fabrics, as it is possible for a work of this kind to be.

It was my desire to present in the DICTIONARY — and within as small compass as practical — the largest number of terms and definitions possible, relating to textiles from the fibres to the finished fabrics and everything which goes into them in the course of the manufacture. An interesting part of the DICTIONARY contains names of fabrics, now obsolete, with as complete a description of their character as it was possible to find in various old laws, wills, lists and in the technical literature. Owing to the fact that manufacturers constantly have recourse to some obsolete fabric in search of new effects, details of manufacturing and finishing of such materials ought to be interesting.

While it was the intention to include textiles found in use in every country throughout the world, owing to their importance special attention was given to French, English and German textiles. The South and Central American republics with their markets, which are interesting to the American importer have been covered, for the first time I believe, in this DICTIONARY.

It was thought advisable to include among the terms incorporated in this book the names of the more important chemicals and to indicate their uses in the course of textile manufacturing and finishing, as the character of a fabric is greatly altered by the application of various chemicals in the finishing process.

Although originally intended to include copyrighted names in the DICTIONARY and although a number of them have been collected, they were not printed, inasmuch as a great many, especially those relating to cotton goods, refer to fabrics of practically of identical construction and finish, and thus their presence would have meant only unnecessary duplication. The names of a great many articles usually sold in dry goods stores, as for instance needles and buttons, as well as the names of garments and machinery, are not included in this DICTIONARY.

The terms found in the DICTIONARY are arranged in alphabetical order, each term discussed independently and placed in its proper position. The combination of the alphabetical order with grouping of the terms according to (the subject they refer to, like knitting, laces, etc., as it is found in one of the latest textile dictionaries published in this country, while it affords some obvious advantage, presupposes on the part of the reader a certain knowledge of the meaning and relation of the particular word, which is often the very knowledge sought for and so should not be taken for granted in advance.

In describing the various fibres the expression "variety" is not used in a strict botanical sense but rather as

referring to the group of plants to which the fibre belongs.

In conclusion, I will add that on the general subject of textile dictionaries, it occurred to me that such a work, accompanied by actual samples of the fibres and fabrics themselves (such as are available on a commercial scale at the present), would be a most useful guide for manufacturers, importers, exporters, merchants and the student. Owing to its magnitude, such a work 'would be beyond the capacity, both financially and physically; of any single person. It is hoped that under the auspices of some of the public libraries or museums, funds will be made available for collating a dictionary of that kind.

New York, November, 1

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