

**DICTIONARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS RELATING
TO THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.**

A

- AAL:**—The name of an East Indian shrub, of the madder family from which a red dye, of the same name is obtained.
- ABA or ABBA:**—A coarse fabric, woven in Syria from hair or wool. As a rule, stripe effects in black and white or blue and white are produced, again more elaborate patterns are met with.
- ABACA or ABAKA, also known as Manila Hemp:**—The fibres of the leaf stalks of a plantain or banana, a native plant of the Indian Archipelago, and extensively cultivated in the Philippine Islands. In India the inner fibres of the leaf stalks are used in the manufacture of delicate fabrics, whereas the outer fibres are used in the manufacture of hats, hammocks, matting, cordage and canvas, the well known Manila hats being one of the better class of these products.
- ABB:**—A former English term for warp yarn; also an English term used in wool sorting, denoting the eighth quality, between seconds and livery.
- ACCORDION PLAITING:**—Fine single plaits done on a machine and steamed and dried into shape. Used on fine soft silk and woolen goods for vests, waists, sleeves and skirts.
- ACETIC ACID:**—A clear colorless liquid, with a strong odor of vinegar. Its salts are known as acetates and are used to a large extent as mordants.
- ACID:**—A liquid with a sour taste. Acids turn blue litmus paper red, and neutralize alkalis.
- ADRAS:**—A lustrous, usually striped, fabric made in central Asia, of silk and cotton. The gloss of the fabric is heightened by beating it with a broad, flat wooden instrument.
- AEROPHANE:**—A name given to a thin, more or less transparent fabric, made in imitation of lace fabrics.
- AFGAN STITCH:**—A stitch made by hand with a long needle of uniform diameter. All the stitches of a row are taken up in turn and held by the needle until crocheting them off again. Generally two at a time are taken off so as to keep the same side of the fabric up.
- ALKALI:**—A liquid with a caustic taste; its presence can be ascertained by means of red litmus paper, which it turns blue. An alkali is a combination of a metal with oxygen and hydrogen, which is soluble in water.
- ALADJA:**—The name applied to a blue and white striped cotton fabric made in Greece and Turkey.
- ALAGAI:**—The name of a fabric made of silk and cotton in Russia and Turkey.
- ALAMODE:**—A thin, light, glossy black silk fabric, made first in the 17th century in France and England; then used chiefly for women's hoods and men's mourning scarfs.
- ALATCHA:**—A cotton fabric made in central Asia, being similar in construction to Aladja.
- ALBERT CLOTH:**—A double-face fabric, both sides of which are of a different color and each finished so that no lining is necessary, also called reversible; used chiefly for overcoats.
- ALIZARIN or ALIZARINE:**—The red coloring matter formerly extracted from the root of the madder plant, now manufactured from coal-tar products, being an orange-red crystalline coloring compound, used for dyeing cotton, wool and silk in different shades of red.
- ALIZARIN BLUE or ANTHRACENE BLUE:**—A coal-tar color, appearing in commerce as a dark violet paste, used in wool dyeing and calico printing in place of indigo.
- ALKALI BLUE:**—A coal-tar product used for dyeing wool and silk bright blue shades. It cannot be used for dyeing cotton, since it does not combine with acid mordants.
- ALKALI-STIFF:**—A stiffening compound employed in the manufacture of the cheaper grades of hats. It is made of three pounds of shellac, dissolved with six ounces of sal soda in one gallon of water.
- ALLEJA:**—A silken fabric made in Turkestan, being interlaced with weaves producing wavy lines in the cloth.
- ALPACO or PACO or ALPACA:**—One of the four species of Llama or Peruvian sheep. Its color is generally black, though frequently variegated with brown and white. The wool is long, soft, silky, and extremely valuable. The hair of the Alpaca, if shorn each year, is about eight inches long, but if allowed to grow will attain a length of from twenty to thirty inches. It is less curly than sheep's wool, but fine and strong in proportion to its diameter, and is used either wholly or in part for producing the yarn for some of the finest dress goods (Alpacas), coatings, coat linings, umbrella coverings, as well as the face of overcoatings (Montagnacs, etc.). The commonly met with alpaca cloth is made of cotton warp and either alpaca or alpaca and wool mixed filling.
- ALUM:**—A compound salt of aluminum sulphate with a sulphate either of soda, potash or ammonia. It is used to a large extent as a mordant.
- AMAN:**—A blue cotton cloth made in the Levant, chiefly at Aleppo.
- AMERICAN CLOTH:**—The English term for enameled cloth; a cotton cloth prepared with a glazed or varnished surface in imitation of morocco leather.
- AMMONIA:**—A volatile alkali, one of the best cleansing agents for wool fibres and fabrics. Its use for this purpose would be more extensive if it was not for its expensiveness.
- ANABASSE:**—A coarse blanketing used in African trade.
- ANDAZE:**—A Turkish cloth measure, equal to 27 inches.
- ANGORA:**—The hair or wool of the Angora goat, an animal somewhat smaller than the common goat. It is a native to the district surrounding Angora in Asia Minor, but now raised extensively in the Cape Colony, also to some extent in this country. Angora in the fleece is of remarkable fineness and of a very pure white, and hangs on the animal in long spiral curls. The average length of the hair is from six to eight inches, but even if called hair it is actually wool, possessing a curly structure with a fine development of the epidermal scales and a bright, metallic lustre. From five to seven pounds of wool is yielded by each fleece. It is manufactured by the inhabitants of Asia Minor into shawls and other fabrics, which are greatly esteemed in Turkey, the shawls particularly equaling those of cashmere. Angora is made up into pushes, imitations of silk velvet, dressgoods, trimmings, etc.
- ANGLOA CLOTH:**—A figured cotton cloth having a fine rough surface resembling somewhat momie cloth. It is generally of a cream color and is principally used for embroidery.
- ANTHRACAEMIA:**—Is better known as Wool Sorters' disease.
- ANILINE:**—A colorless oily compound, the base from which many coal-tar dyes are made. Aniline originally was obtained in the distillation of indigo, but is now chiefly made from nitrobenzene or oil of myrbane.
- ANTICHLOR:**—Any agent for removing the last traces of chlorine from goods after bleaching.
- ANTIMONIUM:**—A modern antimony mordant, which can be used in place of tartar emetic.
- ANTI-SNARLING MOTION, or HASTENING MOTION:**—A device of the mule; the same is actuated from the coping motion, and slightly increases the speed of the spindles at the end of the draw. If a snarl is formed, this motion will throw the snarl onto the spindle point, when it will be taken off by the drag.
- APPLIQUE:**—Applied or laid on, as for example, lace applique upon a ground fabric, as made of other material.

- ARBACCIO**:—A coarse fabric made in southern Italy from the wool of the Nuoro sheep.
- ARDASH**:—The European or Leventine name for a lower grade of Persian raw silk, called shirwan in Persia.
- ARDASSINE**:—The finer grade of Persian silk, also called ablaque.
- ARGENTAN**:—A type of a French point-lace.
- ARGENTILLA**:—A Genoese type of a lace.
- ARGOL**:—A white, purple or reddish powder, which deposits out upon the sides of the barrel when fresh grape juice is allowed to ferment. When purified it is known as *cream of tartar*, which is used in connection with bi-chromate of potash or soda as a mordant in wool and skin dyeing.
- ARMAK**:—A garment made of camel's hair and worn by the Tartars.
- ARMURE-LAINE**:—A heavy ribbed or corded silk face fabric, interlaced with a warp rib weave, the filling resting in the interior of the structure.
- ARMY CLOTH**:—Cloth of any description used in the manufacture of soldiers' uniforms.
- ARMY WORM**:—An enemy to the cotton plant; its name is derived from the feature that it comes with its companions as an invading host, marching from field to field, and devouring every leaf of the cotton plant, and even attacking the bolls.
- ARRAS**:—A tapestry fabric originally made in Arras, France; usually woven with colored figures or scenes and used for draping the walls of rooms.
- ARRASENE**:—A cord or thread made of wool or silk, closely resembling chenille, used for embroidery.
- ARSENATE OF SODA**:—Is used in calico printing as a dung substitute, in clearing the cloth after mordanting, so as to remove any excess of unfixed mordant.
- ARTIFICIAL SILK**:—is made by dissolving nitrocellulose in a mixture of acetic acid, acetone and amyl alcohol. This solution is forced through capillary tubes. When the solution evaporates a thin silky thread is left, known as artificial silk.
- ASTRACHAN**:—A rough fabric with a long and closely curled pile, in imitation of the fur as obtained from the pelts of young lambs in Astrakhan in European Russia.
- ATLAS**:—The German word for satin. A silk fabric interlaced with (Atlas) satin weaves.
- AUBUSSON TAPESTRY**:—Tapestry made originally at the former royal factory at Aubusson, France; now made extensively in the city of Aubusson for draperies.
- AURAMIN or AURAMINE**:—A coal-tar dye used for dyeing wool, cotton and silk in yellow shades.
- AURANTIA**:—A coal-tar product used in dyeing wool and silk in orange shades.
- AUREOSIN**:—A coal-tar product used for dyeing cotton, wool and silk a light rose with greenish-yellow reflection.
- AURIN or AURINE**:—A coal-tar product used for printing cotton and woolens in orange-red shades. Owing to its fugitiveness it is seldom used in dyeing.
- AXMINSTER CARPET**:—A variety of Turkish carpet made with a flax or jute warp and a woolen or worsted filling formed into a pile. It derives its name from the town of Axminster in England, where it was first manufactured.
- AZARIN**:—A coal-tar product of the azo-group used in dyeing cotton a brilliant red, inclining to a crimson.
- AZO-BLUE**:—A dark blue powder, soluble in water; used for dyeing cotton. It is a coal-tar product, and fast to soaps and acids.
- AZO-DYES**:—A group of the coal-tar colors, which contain nitrogen as a necessary constituent.
- AZULIN**:—A coloring matter produced by heating aniline with corallin, formerly a blue dye.
- AZURIN**:—A blue-black color, produced on fabrics printed with aniline black, by the application of ammonia.

B

BACK CLOTH:—A reinforcing cloth used in calico printing, to support a fabric while it is being printed.

BACKED CLOTH:—This name applies to fabrics which in addition to the face fabric, bears bound underneath a layer either of extra filling, extra warp, or another cloth.

BACKING:—The filling, which produces by interlacing with warp threads the lower or back structure in a heavy weight woolen or worsted fabric.

BACKING-OFF CHAIN:—The same is provided to a mule for the purpose of pulling the winding-faller wire down to its proper place during the backing-off of the carriage.

BACKING-OFF FRICTION:—A device of a mule provided for the purpose of revolving the rim shaft, and thereby the tin rollers and spindles the reverse way, during the backing-off of the carriage.

BACKSTITCH:—A name given to a stitch which is made by carrying the thread half way back the length of the preceding stitch.

BACKWASHING AND GILLING:—Two operations practiced in connection with worsted spinning, which free the wool (which enters the machine in the shape of a sliver) from oil (as previously added to facilitate carding) and discoloration, and dampens, draws, and straightens the fibres in the sliver previous to combing.

BACKWIND:—To unravel a knitted fabric and wind up the resulting yarn into convenient form for re-using.

BACTRIAN OR ASIATIC CAMEL:—The long hair of this animal, mixed with wool, or wool and cotton, is spun into the yarn used for the long, hairy backs in cloakings, overcoatings, etc.

BAFT or BAFTA:—A coarse cheap cotton fabric, originally made in the East, but now made in England for the African trade.

BAGGING:—A coarse fabric of hemp or jute, out of which bags are made; also used for covering bales and for similar purposes.

BAIZE:—A coarse colored napped woolen lining, most frequently met with in scarlet or green colors, also used for table covers, draperies, etc.; formerly made in finer texture for clothing.

BALASTRE:—A fine gold cloth made in Vienna.

BALAYENSE:—The inside protection strip at the bottom of a dress.

BALBRIGGAN:—A term now used as applying to all classes of light-weight, flat underwear made of Egyptian cotton or yarn dyed to resemble its color. Originally, the term was first applied to a style of full-fashioned hose made in Balbriggan, Ireland; later, it was also used in connection with knit underwear, both being made from unbleached cotton yarn.

BALINE:—A coarse canvas made for packing purposes.

BALING PRESS:—A power press, screw or hydraulic, employed for compressing raw cotton, as well as yarns and fabrics in all their varieties into bales handy for transportation.

BALING OR TOP MAKING:—The slivers produced by combing are put up at the back of a can finisher to further straighten out its fibres. The slivers when leaving the machine collect together again in sliver cans, which are then put up at the back of a balling finisher, a common gill-box, in which the sliver, after its passage through the machine, is wound on a ball by a suitable attachment in front. In some mills the combed sliver is wound directly upon large bobbins in place of these balls, which process results in keeping them smoother.

(To be continued.)