



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PROF. JOSÉ CEGARRA

20 December 2009 saw the passing away of Professor José Cegarra, who brought the field of scientific and technical research in textiles to maturity in Spain, as the successor of Professor Blanxart, considered the pioneer of Spanish textile research.

Born in Cartagena, he moved to Terrassa as a youth to study Textile Engineering. After completing his studies and working briefly in the dye industry in Olesa de Montserrat and Sabadell, he returned to the School in the 1950s as a professor of materials relating to the chemical and textile industries, where he would remain until the start of the present century.

His leadership qualities came to the fore as Director of the Engineering School, whose new building (now ETSEIAT) was constructed under his management and opened in 1962, and as the Director of the Textile Research Institute, which opened in 1970 and which he headed until 1990.

In a time when Spain's Technical Schools were not seen as centres of research (this being centred in the established universities and the CSIC), Professor Cegarra initiated this activity, when Europe was making its first steps towards defining the scientific and technological basis of the textile craft.

His nearly 50 years of dedication to teaching and research led to important results, consolidating a multitude of scientists and technicians who would carry his reputation around the world and situating him, quite justly, in the small group of the great minds in 20th century textiles.

His most direct students, of whom I am proud to say I am among the closest, are conscious of how high he set the bar in his profession.

Straightforward and even-tempered in character, and a tireless worker, he demanded the same level of dedication and vocation from his fellow workers as he did from himself in the field which was his professional life, textile and chemical technology. His independence and good judgement in this field won him recognition and respect both from the world of academic science and from major European multinational companies, market leaders in products and technology not just in Europe but in much of the world.

He was also a prolific writer, which has permitted the systematisation and ordering of his knowledge in the books he has left us, as well as in countless articles and interviews in specialist journals.

There can be no doubt that his work, just as it has had a wide influence in spatial terms, will continue to do so through time.

His students and colleagues will make sure of that.

Rest in peace.

Professor Josep Valldeperas

Terrassa, January 2010