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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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## Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713597282>

### Preface: David A. I. Goring

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**To cite this Article** Lewis, Norman G.(1987) 'Preface: David A. I. Goring', Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology, 7: 1, v – ix

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/02773818708085248

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02773818708085248>

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PREFACE

DAVID A. I. GORING

It has been both a privilege and a most welcome task to coordinate this tribute to David A. I. Goring from the community of wood scientists. The publication of special issues of *Holzforschung*, the *Journal of Wood Chemistry and Technology*, and *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* serve to remind us of the esteem in which this man is held world-wide and to the vibrance of current research in wood science. And remember, these articles represent only a fraction of the authors who wished to contribute but for different reasons were unable to do so. But what about the man?

David A. I. Goring has been the topic of several recent journal profiles, the 1986 recipient of the Gunnar Nicholson Gold Medal Award, the 1973 winner of the Anselme Payen Award of the American Chemical Society and the author of almost 200 papers. In addition, he has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the International Academy of Wood Science, the Chemical Institute of Canada, and the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. He is also a member of many scientific societies. This past year, he retired from the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada (PAPRICAN) after a most distinguished career spanning three decades.

David Goring, the eldest of four brothers, was born on November 26, 1920, in Toronto, as he says himself "by accident" - his mother was visiting his grandmother at the time. He was brought up in Georgetown, British Guiana, now "Guyana," in the West Indies, where his family, on both sides, have been since the time of Oliver Cromwell. On his father's side, the Gorings are supposed to be descended from a banished son of George, Lord

Goring, a notorious general who fought on the side of the king during the English Civil War. His mother too can lay claim to an illustrious antecedent: she was a descendant of the first President of Bermuda.

His early schooling was more diverse than most! It began at a private establishment run by two sisters, called Miss Harte's School, of which his only recollection is of sitting on benches at a long table - all of us have similar nightmares! Although an Anglican, he next attended a Roman Catholic convent school where for two years running he won the Good Conduct Prize for Boys. Having demonstrated this ability, he then went to St. Stanislaus College, a private boys' school run by Roman Catholic priests, where he fought daily with other boys! Finally, he and his brothers attended Queen's College, an establishment where the quality of teaching was excellent and the staff and pupils came from a wide range of ethnic origins.

David had a breadth of boyhood interests which included canoe-building, bee-keeping, rowing, tennis, and participation in Wolf Cubs and Boy Scouts. He was also captain of the school soccer team, and weighing in at 160 lbs, was a most welcome addition to the school tug-of-war team, where he was known as "Gorilla Goring!" All together, a most well-rounded young man ready to take on the world.

And indeed he did. On completion of his education at Queen's College, he attained the equivalent of London Matriculation and the Higher School Leaving Certificate. He then repaired forthwith to University College, London, England where he began his work on his B.Sc. Chemistry degree. Due to the outbreak of World War II, the students were evacuated to Aberystwyth, Wales where he completed his degree (at University College Wales).

Toward the end of 1942, the Royal Air Force was desperate for pilots and were forced to accept volunteers from the reserves; and so it was that David Goring began pilot training with the RAF, which took him to Scotland, Western Canada and England and finally to active service flying Dakotas in Burma and the Malayan Peninsula.

At the end of the war, David Goring went to McGill University to pursue a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry, studying under Professors Maass and Mason. It was during this time that he met and married his beloved Liz. She was born Elizabeth Dodds Haswell in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, but was raised in Yorkshire. She became a teacher and taught in England and at St. Georges' School in Montreal. They have three children; Jamie, Rosemary and Christopher.

He received his Ph.D. from McGill in 1949, and was one of the first two recipients of the MERCK Postdoctoral Fellowship. He chose to study the light scattering of proteins at the University of Cambridge in the Colloid Science department under Professor Paley Johnson. Wishing to take part more actively in student life there, he registered for a Ph.D., thus gaining entrance to Emmanuel College.

After leaving Cambridge with Ph.D. number two, David headed back to Canada and took up a position as Assistant Research Officer at the Maritime Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council, where he worked on seaweed polysaccharides. There his fellow scientists remember him as a very careful and methodical researcher who began his day very early!

He was then approached by Professor S. G. Mason to take up a position as a physical colloid chemist to work on lignin. In 1955, the Gorings moved back to Montreal, the scene of their early courtship and marriage, where they remained for the next 29 years. His final year in PAPRICAN was spent in Vancouver as a Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia where he was active in setting up the new Pulp and Paper Centre on the campus. His years at PAPRICAN are legend: this holder of two Ph.D.'s rose from being Principal Scientist (1955-1971) to become Director of Research (1971-1977), followed up by two consecutive vice-presidencies. From 1977-1983, he held the position of Vice President, Scientific, and from 1983-1985, the position of Vice-President, Academic. Indeed, for the past fifteen years, he has brilliantly and successfully pursued two simultaneous careers, as Director of Research and as a university teacher and researcher within the same organization due to the

synergistic relationship with the Department of Chemistry at McGill University. During this period, he graduated 23 Ph.D. and 5 M.Sc. students (many of whom have gone on to distinction) as well as directing numerous post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists.

During his research career, David Goring has made significant advances in several areas. A few examples will suffice.

1) **Electrokinetic Properties of Cellulose.** This was the subject of his Ph.D. thesis and is an area that has undergone a recent revival of interest.

2) **Solution and Colloidal Properties of Soluble Lignins.** Here he has contributed massively to the basic knowledge on which the use of lignin as a colloid is based.

3) **Thermal Softening and Adhesive Properties of Wood Polymers.** These investigations resulted in a better understanding of grinding, refining and papermaking.

4) **Distribution and Topochemistry of Lignin in Wood.** This has markedly improved our basic knowledge of the chemistry of lignin in wood. The results from these studies have contributed to a better understanding of the chemical pulping and bleaching processes and to the washing of pulp. This presumably will be significant in the application of biotechnology in the processing of wood and pulp.

5) **Surface Modification of Cellulose to Increase Bonding.** This work resulted in elucidation of the mechanisms of treatment with ozone gas and in corona discharge to increase the bond strength between fibers.

6) **Ultrastructure of Cellulose in Wood.** This is recent work and attempts to solve the puzzle of the way in which cellulose macromolecules are arranged in the cell wall.

Following his retirement from PAPRICAN, he has moved back to his birthplace, Toronto, but not "by accident." There he is currently Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry at the University of Toronto, where his research talents can still be fully utilized!

In closing, it must be emphasized that David Goring has not, as often described, been a man riding two horses: applied and fundamental

research. Instead, he has been riding one - that of good science! He is an individual of penetrating depth and knowledge, unafraid to change his views when new discoveries appear. He has tremendous respect from scientists throughout the world - and, in particular, from the "younger" ones whom he actively encourages to challenge the current understanding of wood science.

David, we in the scientific community thank you for the inspiration that you have given us. Your pursuit of excellence and your quest for knowledge have provided us with a standard by which we measure our own performance. Don't stop challenging us!

Norman G. Lewis  
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and State University  
August 1986