

## About the authors of the scientific papers included in “Leather for Pipe Organs.”



Kadir Donmez retired as Associate Director of the Leather Research Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati. He received a M.S. in Leather Science from the University of Cincinnati and was involved in the leather industry for over 35 years, with 27 years of work experience in leather testing. He worked at various leather tanneries over the years and published a number of articles in the *Journal of American Leather Chemists Association* and other journals. He was a member of the ASTM D31 committee for many years, and chairman for the D31.01 Vegetable Leather, D31.05 Upholstery. He also served for many years as the secretary treasurer of the American Leather Chemists Association.



Harley V. Piltingsrud held research positions at The National Reactor Testing Station (Atomic Energy Commission), The US Air Force Radiological Health Laboratory, The US Food and Drug Administration Nuclear Medicine Research Laboratory and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) (CDC), retiring as a Senior Research Physicist. He is the author of over 50 scientific publications, and holds seven U.S. Patents. His work spanned many fields including radiation protection, nuclear medicine and analytical instrument development for field measurements of chemical pollutants. He worked for many years on ANSI standards and chaired a major ANSI accredited committee for six years. He has been involved in the restoration of pipe organs since the 1980's and at that time teamed up with leather chemist, Jean Tancous, to study the problem of the rapid deterioration of leathers used in pipe organs. That resulted in the publication of “The Development of a Standard Accelerated Aging Test for Measuring the Durability of Leather Used in Musical Instruments” in *The Journal of Leather Chemistry* (JALCA 82, 277 (1987)), followed by an expanded article published by the International Society of Organbuilders, ISO Yearbook 1992, “Aging of Organ Leather.”



Jean J. Tancous graduated from the University of Cincinnati (U.C.) with a B.A. in Chemistry (1946) and an M.S. in Leather Chemistry (1949). She worked as a leather chemist for 37 years at the Tanners' Council Research Laboratory, located on the U.C. campus, which conducted research for the leather tanning industry. She was elected three times as president of the American Leather Chemist Association, published over 54 articles in professional journals and presented over 40 lectures/papers to her colleagues at the American Leather Chemistry Association (ALCA). A major accomplishment with co-authoring a book *Skin, Hide and Leather Defects*, widely used in the leather industry as a reference and teaching aid. She received numerous awards from the ALCA and was the recipient of the “Hall of Fame” award from the United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association. She is also listed in *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*. After retirement (1986) she built a testing lab and continued providing consulting services for the leather industry for another 32 years.