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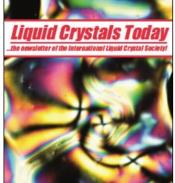
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# Coming Up — 14th ILCC, Pisa 1992

## — Professor Emo Chiellini sets the scene

The 14th International Liquid Crystal Conference (14th ILCC) will be held at the Congress Hall of the University of Pisa at Pisa, Italy from June 21-26 1992. It is the first time that the ILCC has been held in Italy; the Italian liquid crystal community is greatly honoured, and cordially invites all colleagues to participate in the Conference.

The Conference is sponsored by the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and will be held under the auspices of the International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS).

As usual, the focus of the Conference will be to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of the most recent advances, as well as future prospects in liquid crystal science and technology. The programme will be divided into various broad sections covering theoretical, experimental (chemistry and physics) and applicative aspects expected to provide the stateof the art in broad areas of general interest, while invited lectures and contributed (oral and poster) papers will present the latest developments in specific sections.

Speakers from both industry and academia will be represented. In addition, a manu-facturers' exhibition will be arranged in which a variety of liquid crystal devices and products will be displayed.

The proceedings at the Conference will be published as a special volume of Liquid Crystals and a complimentary copy will be made available to all registered participants. ILCS members will be offered a discount on fees and there will be a reduced registration fee for students.

The following sections are planned:

## Liquid Crystals

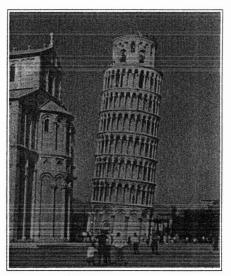
- Synthesis and Molecular **Properties**
- 2. Chiral Phases
- Ferroelectrics and Antiferroelectrics
- 4. Nonlinear Optics
- Surfaces and Interfaces
- Phase Structure and Phase **Transitions**
- Instability, Defects and Fluctuations
- Molecular Theory and Microscpic Properties
- Lyotropics, LB films and Biological Systems
- 10. Applications

### Polymer Liquid Crystals

- 11. Synthesis and Molecular **Properties**
- 12. Industrial Production, Processing and Applications

Accommodation will be in hotels in different price categories, in town or in the nearby surroundings, that have been reserved for Conference delegates. However June is just at the beginning of the peak season for tourism in Pisa, and an early booking is strongly recommended. A number of social events and a programme for accompanying people are planned in conjunction with the Conference, and post-conference tours will be available.

Pisa is known worldwide for its unique Leaning Tower and the other monuments in the Miracles Square, and in addition is set in one of the most beautiful regions of the Italian peninsula. Pisa International Airport



The famous Leaning Tower at Pisa

provides daily connections with London, Frankfurt and Paris, as well as with the Intercontinental Airports at Rome and Milan. Train connections are available with many Italian towns, including Florence, Rome, Genoa and Turin. The Conference will be held at the beginning of the Italian summer and dry, warm conditons can be expected with typical temperatures in the 18-30°C range.

The second circular with general information, registration and accommodation forms, provisional scientific programme and forms for submission of contributions to the Conference will be mailed shortly.

Further information can be obtained from Professor Emo Chiellini, Chairman, or Dr Giancarlo Galli, Secretary, Department of Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry, University of Pisa. 56126 PISA, Italy.

Tel: (0) 50-587272; Fax: (0) 50-587260.

## ALCOM High School project at Kent, Ohio from Elaine Landry, LCI, Kent

This year high school students spent a week in July participating in a "Creative Connections" workshop at Kent State University campus. Liquid crystals was one of the fields studied and a series of lectures and complementary hands-on experience was organised by some of the staff of ALCOM, part of the Liquid

Crystal Institute at Kent. The laboratory experiments began with the identification of liquid crystal phases using optical microscopy. This assignment held the students' interest with the wide variety of textures observed as they proceeded through the phases.

The most popular laboratory was the construction of liquid crystal displays. The concept of polarity was genuinely understood after the students had made their own twisted nematic cells. They were impressed by the simplicity of PDLC displays, and this laboratory session ended with a competition to determine the PDLC display with the best electrooptic characteristics.

Introducing the diverse field of liquid crystals to students with a limited scientific background proved very successful. Liquid crystal technology has reached every student in one form or another, and the hands-on approach of the class resulted in important connections between basic science and technology.