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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Liquid Crystals Today

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713681230>

The World of Liquid Crystals

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To cite this Article Dunmur, D. A.(1992) 'The World of Liquid Crystals', *Liquid Crystals Today*, 2: 2, 1 – 3

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/13583149208628595

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13583149208628595>

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LIQUID CRYSTALS

Vol. 2, No. 2 June 1992
Conference Edition

Today

Newsletter of the International Liquid Crystal Society

The World of Liquid Crystals

This edition of Liquid Crystals Today is published to coincide with the 14th International Liquid Crystal Conference, taking place in Pisa, Italy from 21 — 26 June 1992. The Conference has a special significance for the International Liquid Crystal Society as it marks the second anniversary of the Society, and also is the first world-wide gathering of members since the formation of the Society was announced at the 13th International Liquid Crystal Conference in Vancouver, Canada in 1990. The Society was formed from the International Steering Committee for Liquid Crystal Conferences, and our first President and the Board of Directors were provided by the former Steering Committee. After two years of existence it is appropriate to review the progress of the Society, and to look to the future.

It was an honour to be asked to act as the first Secretary for the Society, but when I accepted the position I did not fully appreciate the strong international spirit which exists between liquid crystal scientists throughout the world, and which has provided an unexpected stimulus to my work for the Society. There are of course many other international organisations of scientists, but those working in liquid science are sometimes regarded as peripheral to mainstream developments in physics, chemistry, mathematics, electronic engineering or biology. It is perhaps for this reason that liquid crystal scientists from all parts of the world have written expressing their appreciation for the formation of the

Society, and the ILCS for its part can now provide a service for the international liquid crystal community through its various activities.

The International Liquid Crystal Society is a forum for its members, and after two years, I can report that we have over 500 members drawn from all parts of the world. The extent of liquid crystal science can be seen from the table listing 37 countries with ILCS members. One of the objectives of the Society is to establish Chapters in different parts of the world, and both the Italian Liquid Crystal Society and the British Liquid Crystal Society have affiliated to the ILCS. We hope that other National Groups will also affiliate to the ILCS.

The present activities of the Society are sponsoring the International Liquid Crystal Conference every two years, selecting candidates for the Glenn Brown Award, and publication of *Liquid Crystals Today*. This is the newsletter of the ILCS, and is available to all members to air their views, record news or scientific developments of interest, and to provide a medium for short review or feature articles. During the past year two notable events have been reported in *Liquid Crystals Today*. The drama of the Moscow Coup attempt in August 1991 coincided with the Summer European Liquid Crystal Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the conference report from Waclaw Witko (*Liquid Crystals Today*, Vol 2, 1) provided an historic perspective on these events. We shall be dealing with the social and economic

Where our Members come from

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----------------|-----|
| Argentina | 1 | Italy | 24 |
| Armenia | 1 | Japan | 48 |
| Belgium | 4 | Korea | 1 |
| Belorussia | 13 | Netherlands | 9 |
| Bulgaria | 5 | Philippines | 1 |
| Brazil | 11 | Poland | 14 |
| Canada | 10 | R O C (Taiwan) | 16 |
| P R China | 19 | Romania | 2 |
| Czechoslovakia | 1 | Russia | 31 |
| Egypt | 1 | Slovenia | 2 |
| Finland | 1 | Spain | 4 |
| France | 10 | Sweden | 7 |
| Georgia | 3 | Switzerland | 5 |
| Germany | 21 | Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Greece | 2 | Scotland | 1 |
| Hungary | 2 | UK | 37 |
| India | 54 | USA | 146 |
| Ireland | 2 | Ukraine | 19 |
| Israel | 4 | | |

consequences of the political realignment in eastern Europe and Asia for many years; these developments will also have a strong influence on science, and the ILCS will do its best to support liquid crystal activities in the affected countries. It was a very great pleasure to report the award of the 1991 Nobel Prize for Physics to Pierre Gilles de Gennes (*Liquid Crystals Today*, Vol 1, 3): perhaps the award marked the coming of age of liquid crystal science.

The results of elections for a new President and Vice-President of the International Liquid Crystal Society will be announced during the Conference in Pisa. The thanks of the Society are extended to the
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COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 30 SEPTEMBER 1992.

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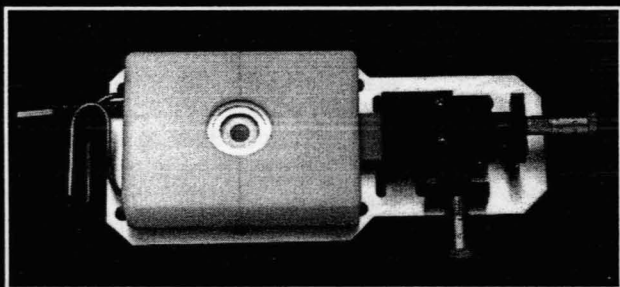
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(cont from p 1) departing President Professor S Chandrasekhar and departing Vice-President Dr Martin Schadt and other Directors leaving the Board for their work on behalf of the ILCS. As to the future, we are certain that liquid crystals will continue to make a major impact on science and technology. It is hoped that those gathered together for the conference will make their views on the future development of the ILCS known to the Officers or Directors of their Society. The International Liquid Crystal Society exists to serve the liquid crystal scientists working in industry, higher education and research establishments, to support their activities, and to ensure that the results of liquid crystal research are available for the betterment on all on the planet. Finally I am sure that all at the Conference will depart scientifically and physically refreshed, a result of the efforts of the Conference Chairman, Professor Emo Chiellini and his team, to whom we express our heartfelt thanks.

D A Dunmur, Editor

SOCIETY NEWS

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UKRAINE

Liquid Crystal Society

Liquid crystal scientists in the Ukraine are hoping to set up a chapter of the ILCS. There are over 100 scientists engaged on liquid crystal research in twelve Universities and Institutes across the country, and several industrial enterprises are manufacturing liquid crystal materials and devices. It is intended to create a data-base of liquid crystal activities within the Ukraine, which will help in the development of international collaborations. Further information from Dr Shiyonovskii or Dr Gerasimov.

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