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Liquid Crystals

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Preface

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Preface

The papers appearing in this and the subsequent issues of Volume 5 of *Liquid Crystals* were presented at the Twelfth International Liquid Crystal Conference held in Freiburg, F.R. Germany, 15–19 August 1988. During the Conference the centenary of the discovery of liquid crystals by Friedrich Reinitzer was celebrated by a historical session as well as by a historical exhibition. In this Reinitzer's famous letter to Otto Lehmann, which had been discovered some years ago by P. M. Knoll, was also presented. Parts of this letter given in facsimile together with an English translation of Reinitzer's first paper about cholesterol derivatives are presented at the beginning of these Proceedings.

More than 700 registered participants from 31 countries attended the Conference and presented about 500 papers in both oral and poster sessions. This strong appeal of the Conference may have been due to a general growth of interest in liquid crystals as well as to the lovely Conference city located at the foothills of the Black Forest. We wish to thank the Organizing Committee for the perfect organization of the Conference and for the beautiful social programme. This Conference could not have been held without generous financial support by many sponsors from industry and government; these are gratefully acknowledged.

About 190 Conference papers, all of which have been refereed, are presented in full in this volume of *Liquid Crystals* and the titles of all of the Conference contributions are summarized at the end of the Proceedings. The Editors wish to express their gratitude to Taylor & Francis, London, for their sponsorship and for the excellent production of these Proceedings.

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