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## Liquid Crystals

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### Preface

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## Preface

The papers included in this and the subsequent issues of Volume 14 of *Liquid Crystals* were presented at the 14th International Liquid Crystal Conference (14th ILCC) held in Pisa, Italy, 21–26 June 1992. They were selected on the basis of the normal refereeing procedure and subject to the usual high standards required for publication in *Liquid Crystals*.

The Pisa 14th ILCC was indeed the first to be held under the auspices of the newly founded International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS) whose constitution was announced at the Vancouver Conference in 1990. The sponsorship of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) as well as of the European Physical Society (EPS) helped to emphasize the distinct interdisciplinary character of the Conference. We also wish to thank the numerous firms and institutions that offered their much appreciated financial support, especially the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). Special thanks are due to all other members of the Organizing Committee for their dedication to making the Conference both profitable and enjoyable, particularly the most conscientious Treasurer, Professor Roberto Solaro, Pisa.

More than 700 registered participants from 38 countries from all over the world attended the Conference and presented a total number of 952 contributions including plenary lectures, invited lectures, short communications, and posters. Out of those presentations submitted for publication, over 200 will appear in these Proceedings.

The programme was divided into twelve broad sections, as follows: (1) Synthesis and molecular properties; (2) Chiral phases; (3) Ferroelectrics and antiferroelectrics; (4) Non-linear optics; (5) Surfaces and interfaces; (6) Phase structure and phase transitions; (7) Instabilities, defects and fluctuations; (8) Molecular theory and microscopic properties; (9) Lyotropics, LB films and biological systems; (10) Applications; (11) Synthesis and molecular properties of polymer liquid crystals; (12) Processing and applications of polymer liquid crystals. Distinct footprints of those major topics are well represented in the papers collected in this special Volume. Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to Taylor & Francis, London, for their sponsorship and for the excellent production of these Proceedings.

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