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## NEWS from around the LIQUID CRYSTAL WORLD: BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY —

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# NEWS from around the LIQUID CRYSTAL WORLD

## BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY —

This year's annual conference at the University of Oxford (*Report on p7*) was the occasion for the first Sturgeon Memorial Lecture.

This named lecture has been established as a result of generous donations from Merck Limited, GEC Research, the UK Defence Research Agency and BNR Europe Limited to commemorate the contributions of Dr Ben Sturgeon to liquid crystal science. Dr Sturgeon was formerly the Research and Development Director of BDH Ltd (now Merck Ltd), and it was fitting that the first lecture should have been given by Professor George Gray, who collaborated closely with Ben Sturgeon during the development of BDH's liquid crystal materials, and who is now Research Coordinator for Merck UK.

The theme of the lecture was "Dr Ben Sturgeon, his life and work", and Professor Gray traced Dr Sturgeon's involvement with the developing multi-million dollar liquid crystal industry from its beginning in the late 1960s to the

present. In parallel with the developments in device technology was the rapid improvement of liquid crystal materials, and Ben Sturgeon's role in the commercial exploitation of these materials was highlighted.

In 1977 BDH became the largest liquid crystal manufacturer in the world, and in 1979 BDH together with the University of Hull and the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment received a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for their development of liquid crystals for displays. Throughout the lecture, the close involvement of Ben Sturgeon with the detailed chemistry was emphasised along with his 'hands-on' approach, which wasn't always appreciated by his colleagues.

The British Liquid Crystal Society was delighted that Ben Sturgeon's family could be present at the first Sturgeon Memorial Lecture. This lecture will be an annual event, and the Society looks forward to welcoming distinguished Sturgeon Memorial Lecturers in the future.



The Sturgeon Memorial Lecturer, Professor George Gray, with Dr Sturgeon's family, BLCS officials and members of the liquid crystal research and marketing team from Merck.

## SECOND QUEEN'S AWARD for TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT to Merck Ltd and Defence Research Agency

The Optical and Display Division of the UK Defence Research Agency (RSRE Malvern) and the Industrial Chemical Division of Merck Limited (Poole) have won their second Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for developments in liquid crystals.

The award is for the invention and successful exploitation of a second generation of liquid crystal mixtures suitable for advanced liquid crystal displays.

## New Journal Information

*Molecular Materials* — Section C of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology*, published by Gordon & Breach, Editor in Chief: LMBlinov, Inst. of Crystallography, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky Prospekt 59, Moscow, 117333 Russia.

This new journal is intended to promote the dissemination of fundamental and applied research on molecular materials throughout the world. It is clearly hoped that by having a Moscow-based editor-in-chief contributions from Russia and other former socialist countries will be encouraged and will reach a wider audience. The scope of the journal embraces liquid crystals, dyes for optoelectronics, organic metals, semiconductors, superconductors, polymeric and bioelectronic molecular materials. Contributions in the first issue include articles on ferroelectric liquid crystals, lyotropic liquid crystals and LB films and come from groups in the former socialist countries, but manuscripts are invited from anywhere in the world.

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AWARD for GEC's LC Polymer Optical Storage Medium

A new system for optical storage in liquid crystal polymers developed by GEC Hirst Research Centre (UK) under the EC Brite-EuRam research programme has been selected for an Award for Achievement. The medium uses dye-containing LC polymers synthesised by Akzo Company (The Netherlands), and can store high resolution images (5µm lines) with greyscale. The collaborative research programme involved GEC, Akzo, the Universities of Leeds and Hull together with Wicks & Wilson Ltd who developed the computer-controlled laser writing beam.

## MC1 — 1st International Conference on Materials Chemistry

The Royal Society of Chemistry is organising the First International Conference on Materials Chemistry, which will be held in the Univ of Aberdeen, Scotland, 18—22 July 1993. The meeting is expected to have a broad appeal to those working in Materials Chemistry and will have sessions on liquid crystals, molecular crystals, inorganic solids and glasses. The programme will include plenary and invited speakers, but will also have a significant proportion of contributed papers. (See p 8).