

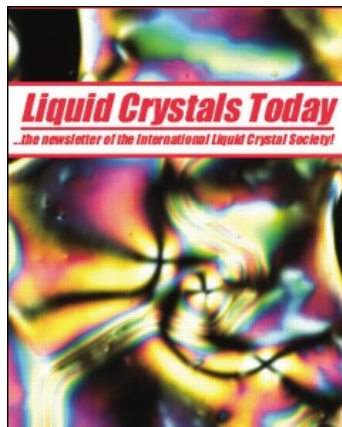
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14th International Liquid Crystal Conference Pisa, Italy, June 21-26 1992

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NEW BOOKS

Springer-Verlag have announced a new series of graduate texts and research monographs on *Partially Ordered Systems*. The first titles announced for this series are:

Solitons in Liquid Crystals

L LAM and J PROST, eds., 338 pp.
1992, Hardcover, ISBN 0-387-96878-4.

Topics covered include: an introduction to the concept of solitons, field-induced solitons, non-linear problems in anisotropic systems, solitons in sheared LCs, in ferroelectric LCs, frustrated smectic LCs, orientational singularities in LC films, charged twist walls, localised convection instabilities in nematic LCs, commensurate-incommensurate phase transitions in ferroelectric smectics.

Bond-Orientational Order in Condensed Matter Systems

K J STRANDBURG, ed., 388 pp.
1992, Hardcover, ISBN 0-387-97638-8.

Focus: the contribution made by the ordering of bond orientations (as distinguished from the orientation of the molecules themselves) on the behaviour of condensed systems, particularly their phase transitions. Contributions on: computer simulation studies, phase transitions in hexatic liquid crystals, and quasicrystals.

Diffraction Optics of Complex Structured Periodic Media

V A BELYAKOV, 352 pp.
1992, Hardcover, ISBN 0-387-97654-X.

Discussion of: the interaction of x-rays, gamma rays, electrons and neutrons with various kinds of ordered media including crystals and LCs.

Simple Views on Condensed Matter

P-G de GENNES

World Scientific, 1992, 400pp,
(Hdbk) ISBN 981-02-0909-6
(Pbk) ISBN 981-02-0910-X

A personal selection of the major works of de Gennes, with comments by the author. The papers are collected into six parts on: Solid State; Liquid crystals; Polymers; Interfaces; Wetting & Adhesion; Chirality.

MEETING REPORTS

14th International Liquid Crystal Conference Pisa, Italy, June 21-26 1992

*Report from the Secretary to the Conference, Giancarlo Galli,
Dipartimento di Chimica e Chimica Industriale, Universita degli Studi di Pisa*

Held at the Congress Hall of the University of Pisa, this was the first time that the ILCC had been held in Italy. The whole Italian liquid crystal community was involved in the organisation of the Conference with a deep sense of honour and commitment. We must however acknowledge the special efforts provided by the local members of the Organising Committee at the University of Pisa. It was challenging and rewarding for me to work with the conference Chairman, Emo Chiellini and the Treasurer, Roberto Solaro.

The Conference was fortunate to have the scientific and cultural sponsorship of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the European Physical Society (EPS) as well as support from other institutions and firms. In addition, it was the first ILCC to be under the auspices of the newly formed International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS) after its formation was announced at the 13th ILCC in Vancouver, Canada in 1990.

In keeping with the tradition, the main focus of the Conference was to provide a wide forum for the presentation and discussion of the most recent and significant advances, as well as future trends and prospects in liquid crystal science and technology. More attention than in the past was devoted to polymer liquid crystals, materials that are currently gaining ever growing relevance to liquid crystal science and applications.

A total of 715 scientists gathered in Pisa at the Conference, coming from 38 countries all over the world. The largest contingent (123) came from Germany, with Italy having the next largest (118). There was also good representation from the USA (89), the UK (80), Japan (67) and France (50). Other sizeable numbers came from Poland, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Participation in the ILCC has increased

both from countries which already possess well consolidated liquid crystal activities and from countries where there is not a long tradition. Scientists came from countries such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, the Philippines, as well as most regions of the former Soviet Union. During the past few years dramatic events of great historic importance have redesigned the geography of the world and their political, social and economic consequences will affect our lives for many years.

In this context there will no doubt be wider scope for forthcoming ILCCs and for the ILCS to disseminate and support liquid crystal research particularly in those emerging countries. It was indeed a primary policy of the Organising and Scientific Committees of the Pisa Conference to encourage and facilitate the widest and best qualified participation in the meeting, and necessary assistance was provided to many scientists from soft currency countries. Financial support was offered in the form of grants, of which there were 80, especially to young scientists and students.

At the Conference 952 papers were accepted for presentation, including 5 plenary lectures, 27 invited lectures and 117 oral and 803 poster contributed papers. These were collected into two thick abstract books. The Proceedings will be published as special issues of *Liquid Crystals* and the guest and staff editors of the journal are eager to ensure an early appearance in the 1993 volumes. One complimentary copy will be issued to all registered participants.

A rich social programme consisting of various guided visits and excursions was also arranged. Personally I shall never forget the organ concert at night in a deeply touching atmosphere with magnificent views of shining marble and gold in Pisa Cathedral. I must also regret having been a rather incompetent guide to the art treasures of the beautiful Carthusian monastery we visited during our trip around the hills of Tuscany to the Chianti vineyards.

Finally we wish to express our satisfaction that our Hungarian colleagues will be the hosts for the 15th ILCC in Budapest in 1994. I fully appreciate their dedication and can anticipate the scientific and organisational efforts they will be making to ensure that the International Liquid Crystal Conference is a continuing success.

Computerised preprint server for Liquid Crystals and Optical Materials

It is now possible to send and receive recent preprints automatically by electronic mail or ftp (file transfer protocol) to and from the international community. This service is provided by Case Western Reserve, Kent State and Akron Universities through ALCOM, and is a fully automated bulletin board for liquid crystal/optical materials preprints. To get more information send e-mail to lc-om@alcom-p.cwru.edu containing "help" in the header/subject field.