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EDITORIAL

David Dunmur

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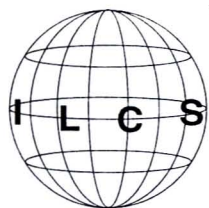
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LIQUID CRYSTALS Today

Vol. 4, No 1 April 1994

EDITORIAL

This will be the last *Liquid Crystals Today* before the 15th International Liquid Crystal Conference to be held in Budapest, Hungary, July 3 - 8, this year. The biennial conferences seem to come around very rapidly, and planning is already taking place for the 1996 ILCC to be held at Kent State University, Ohio, USA, the birthplace of the ILCC. Institutions looking to host the ILCC in 1998 or 2000 should prepare submissions for initial consideration after the Budapest meeting.

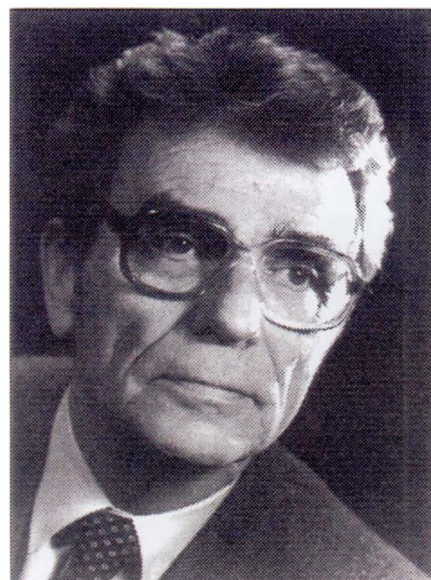
Although it seems only a short time since we all gathered in Pisa, much has taken place on the liquid crystal stage since 1992. The market share of LCDs in the display industry has continued to increase, and ferroelectric LCDs have finally entered the market. On the materials front, considerable advances have been made in composite systems such as PDLCs and LCDPs, while the academic liquid crystal community continues to thrive in difficult circumstances. *Liquid Crystals Today* has tried to chronicle these developments and provide a link between liquid crystallers around the world. After four years as Secretary and Editor, I think that the time has come for new input into the Society and its Newsletter, and I am sure that the Board will be pleased to hear from anyone prepared to take over these demanding but rewarding responsibilities. I look forward to meeting many of you at ILCC Budapest, which I am certain will continue the tradition of excellent science in a friendly environment. *David Dunmur*

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Profile of Professor Horst Sackmann • Society News • Meeting to mark retirement of Professor George Gray • In Memoriam: Professor J M Janik • A note on the melting point of α -solanine • Liquid Crystals & IT • BLCS Meeting Report • Miscellany • Forthcoming Meetings.

PROFESSOR HORST SACKMANN, 1921 - 1993

An appreciation from
*H Stegemeyer, Paderborn,
Germany*



Horst Sackmann, Emeritus Professor of Physical Chemistry at the Martin-Luther University, Halle Wittenburg, passed away on 2nd November 1993, at the age of 72.

Professor Sackmann was born in Freiburg on 3 February 1921. As a native of Baden he spent his school days in Offenburg. In 1939 he intended to start his studies at the University of Freiburg, but just at that time the 2nd World War broke out and the university was closed because of its exposed geographical location. So he matriculated at the University of Halle and his first contact with liquid crystals was when he was at Halle as a young student, under Wilhelm Kast, then Professor of Physics at Halle.

After Freiburg University reopened he continued his studies in chemistry there, until he was called up for the army in 1941. During his time in the army he was seriously wounded and sent to a hospital in Halle, and after his recovery he continued with his studies at Halle until the end of the War.

In 1945 he did his diploma thesis with Karl Lothar Wolf, then Professor of Chemistry at Halle. Wolf was an enthusiastic adherent of the Goethean morphology and he inspired his young co-

worker to study the influence of the molecular shape on material properties which became the important starting point for Horst Sackmann's further scientific work. His doctoral supervisor was Franz Sauerwald, then Director of the Institute of Physical Chemistry in Halle, who focused Sackmann's interest on the thermodynamics of mixing. In his PhD thesis (1949) entitled "Volume changes during the melting process of organic compounds in homologous series" he detected an odd-even effect of ΔV .

Afterwards, he devoted his attention to material properties of spherically shaped molecules. In 1954 he became qualified to lecture in physical chemistry (in German: Habilitation) by a thesis entitled "Isomorphic relations between the tetrahalides of the IVth group." As a young university lecturer he studied the behaviour of binary liquid mixtures and gave an interpretation of their excess functions in terms of statistical theories.

At the end of the 1950s, Horst Sackmann decided to extend his studies on isomorphism to systems with rod-shaped molecules. He found prototypes of those liquid crystal systems of which he first became aware when working with Wilhelm Kast. The extensive collection