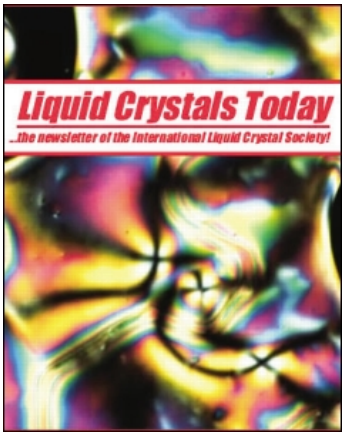

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Liquid Crystals & IT

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SOCIETA ITALIANA DEI CRISTALLI LIQUIDI

The Italian National Group of Liquid Crystals has now merged into a legally constituted Italian Society of Liquid Crystals (Società Italiana dei Cristalli Liquidi). The Society has the scope of promoting the knowledge of the multidisciplinary scientific and technological aspects of Liquid Crystalline Materials and establishing relationships and cultural exchanges with sister Associations and the ILCS. The Society has applied for affiliation to the International Liquid Crystal Society.

Present Executive Board Members are: President Prof E Chiellini (Pisa), Prof R Barberi (Calabria), Prof M Fontana (Parma), Prof A Golemme (Calabria), Prof C A Veracini (Pisa), Dr M Laus (Bologna), Prof F Simoni (Napoli). The first meeting will be held in Amalfi June 1 - 4, 1994.

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MISCELLANY

STN PLASTIC LCD — Sharp Corporation has developed a prototype 4.9 in STN plastic display with high information density and image quality, and contrast comparable to LCDs using glass substrates. It is expected that the company will introduce displays with resolutions of 336 x 240 and 640 x 480 elements shortly. The new STN display uses a 0.4 mm plastic substrate with high surface smoothness and rigidity. The surface treatment technology provides resistance to gas permeablility and scratching, and no deterioration of performance occurs when the display operates at 60°C and 90% humidity over 1000 hours.

Abstracted from JETRO, Jan 1994

Liquid Crystals & IT

The information explosion in all areas of science is now demanding management and organisation, and this will only be possible through increasing use of databases and computer based information exchange. In the last issue of *Liquid Crystals Today* (**Vol 3**,3) it was announced that possibilities for on-line access to liquid crystal information were being explored, and it is hoped that we can give a report on progress in the next issue. Management of and access to information is only half the problem — the other is actually gathering the information in the first place. A valuable addition to the liquid crystal information-base is provided by the publication by Springer Verlag of an updated compilation of data [1] on liquid crystal compounds compiled by **Volkmar Vill** form the University of Hamburg. The enormous growth in liquid crystal science is immediately apparent from the scope of Dr Vill's compilation, and he has provided some additional data on this development in the form of time charts, figs 1 and 2. The increase in numbers of compounds and papers is far from monotonic, and scientific historians will not find it difficult to identify the causes of the phase transitions. Perhaps the stepwise growth in the number of compounds is of particular interest, and in 1994 we might be seeing the development of a period of slower growth.

A critical review of transition data relating to the alkyl/alkoxyphenylbenzoates has been published by **Mary Neubert** and others from Kent State University [2], and it is to be hoped that further studies of this type will be carried out. However access to this information is important, and hopefully the results of these studies will be prepared in a form that is accessible through international computer networks.

[1] Landolt-Bornstein New Series, Group IV: Macroscopic and Technical Properties of Matter, Vol 7: Liquid Crystals (Transition Temperatures and Related Properties), Ed. J Thiem, Compiled by V Vill, (Springer-Verlag) — further details appear in *Liquid Crystals Today* (**Vol 3**,3).

[2] T T Blair, M E Neubert, M Tsai and C Tsia, *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data*, **20**, 189 (1991).

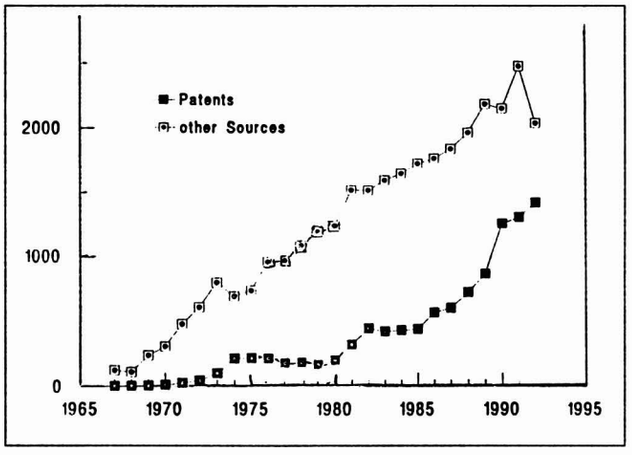

Fig 1. Annual references to liquid crystals (Chemical Abstracts)

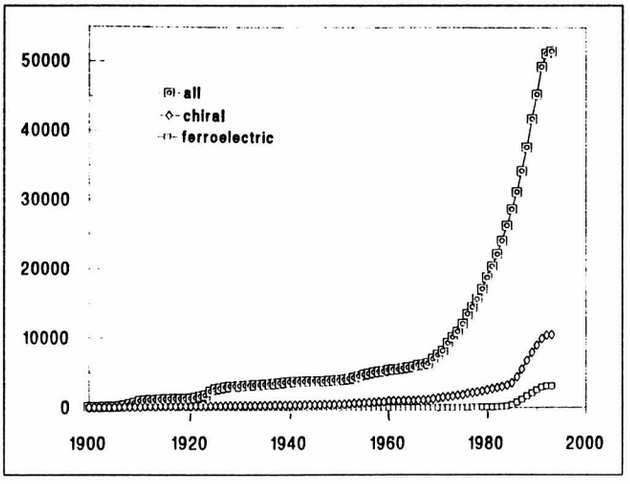

Fig 2. Numbers of mesogenic compounds reported.