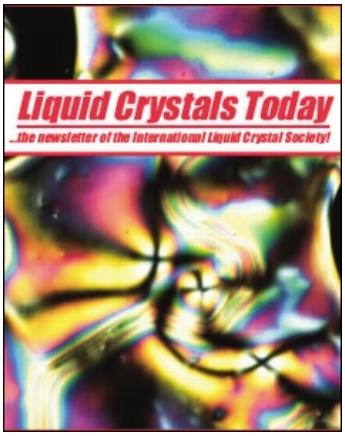


Liquid Crystals Today
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713681230

In Memoriam

Richard M. Hornreich[a]
[a] Noted Theorist on Phase Transitions,

To cite this Article Hornreich, Richard M.(1996) 'In Memoriam', Liquid Crystals Today, 6: 3, 1
To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/13583149608055145
URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13583149608055145

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY

Liquid Crystals TODAY

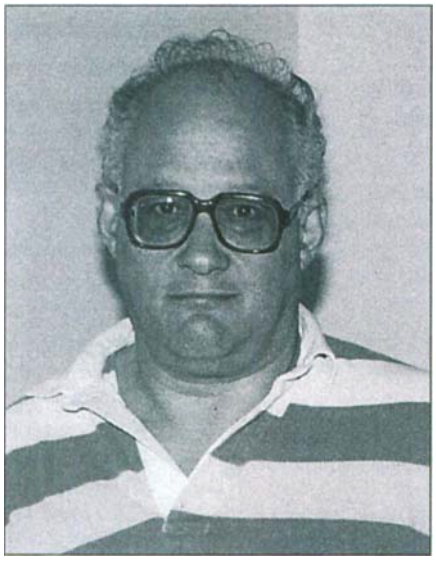
Volume 6, No. 3, October 1996

ISSN: 1358-314X

IN MEMORIAM

Dr Richard M. Hornreich: Noted Theorist on Phase Transitions*

Richard Hornreich, distinguished physicist in the Department of Complex Systems at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and a leading theorist on cholesteric and blue phases of liquid crystals, died of a heart attack on 24 October 1994; he was 56. He is survived by his wife Geraldine, two daughters, a son, two granddaughters, and his mother.



Dick (as he was known to his friends and colleagues) grew up in the Bronx section of New York City before earning BSc, MSc and EE degrees in Electrical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After two years with the LFE Corporation in Boston, he returned to graduate at the Weizmann Institute and obtained his PhD degree in Physics in 1967.

Following three years with GTE Corporation, he accepted a faculty position at the Weizmann Institute that he held for 24 years. He spent sabbatical leaves at Yale University and Imperial College, London. He served in several administrative capacities including Dean of the Feinberg Graduate School and Chairman of his Department at the Weizmann Institute. He established collegial research efforts with many physicists, most notably Professor S. Shtrikman, and directed numerous students. He was honoured with the Leedy Memorial Award in 1972 for his work on the magnetoelectric effect and was a member of the American Physical Society, the Israel Physical Society, Sigma Xi and the IEEE.

Dick's research interests covered a wide range of topics in condensed matter physics where he consistently made ground-breaking contributions. From work on magnetic systems and phase transitions early in his career, he developed the beautiful and elegant theory of the Lifshitz point, which has been successfully used in nematic and smectic liquid crystals. Always interested in the mechanism for the onset of periodic structure, he pioneered in developing models of the cholesteric phase and the blue phases of liquid crystals. Critical phenomena, melting in reduced dimensionality, the existence of photonic band gaps in structures of specific symmetry, and boundary layer order transitions in nematogenic systems were all problems of interest to him.

* Reprinted from the abstract of the Memorial Session, 16 ILCC, Kent State University, 1996.

Editorial Comment

Liquid crystal displays continue to make inroads into the display market, and are challenging CRTs for dominance in this major industry. Other technologies compete with liquid crystal displays, and constant improvement and developments are necessary to maintain the position of LCDs at the forefront of the display industry. There can be no doubt that LCDs have been hugely successful; what is still not known is the ultimate extent of this success. The series of SID sponsored conferences on displays provide opportunities to compare progress in the different technologies, and for liquid crystal industry the SID meetings are increasingly important shop windows for LCD technology. The latest

continued on page 2

In this issue: