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1st Polish—German Seminar

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1st Polish–German Seminar

Self-organization in Chiral Liquid Crystals

30 September–5 October 1996, Kobylniki/Poznan, Poland

Report by Professor Horst Stegemeyer, Universität Gesamthochschule, Paderborn

The 1st Polish–German Seminar took place in the beautiful palace Kobylniki near Poznan built in 1886 in the style of neo-renaissance and was organized by W. Kuczynski *et al.*, Polish Academy of Science. Self-organization in chiral liquid crystals provided a topic for discussion amongst German research groups from Clausthal, Halle, Leipzig and Paderborn and the liquid crystals group of the Institute of Molecular Physics at Poznan which are linked together by joint research projects. The meeting was sponsored by the Foundation for Polish–German Co-operation, Warszawa, with the aim to stimulate friendship among Poland and Germany. Consequently, the number of 35

participants comprised young German students who came into contact with Polish culture for the first time during the closing excursion to Poznan.

There were six plenary lectures dealing with problems of chirality especially in ferroelectric smectics and lyotropic liquid crystals and TGB phases. Sixteen brief reports were given combined with posters at which extensive discussions took place after the lecture sessions. This was found to be a good idea for deepening the exchange of views on the different topics. As an example of the significant content of the meeting, the wavelength dispersion of the optical tilt angle in S_C phases presented by F. Giesselmann, Clausthal, should be emphasized. The consequence of this result concerning the Landau theory and for the definition of the local director in S_C phases was a matter of violent discussion.

The warm hospitality of the Polish hosts was gratefully acknowledged by all German participants hoping that the second seminar will take place two years later.

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