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Liquid Crystals

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Editorial

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Editorial

Symposium Proceedings—to publish or not to publish? It is a difficult decision for editors to make. Such Proceedings necessarily inflate the size of journals and increase their costs. There should therefore be compelling reasons to publish Proceedings. The Twelfth International Liquid Crystal Conference held in Freiburg (15 to 19 August 1988) provided us with such reasons since it celebrated the centenary of the discovery of liquid crystals. In addition to highlighting the latest research on liquid crystals, the Conference was punctuated with historically significant reviews of the subject by renowned plenary lecturers who were able to put contemporary advances in perspective. Thus, the Freiburg Conference stands as a benchmark in the investigations of liquid crystals and their applications. We have decided therefore to publish the Proceedings as a special volume of *Liquid Crystals* with the assistance of Professors Stegemeyer and Schneider as Guest Editors. In order to ensure that the high standards which we have established for the Journal are maintained in this volume, all contributed manuscripts are being thoroughly refereed.

Our decision to publish the Proceedings will increase the number of pages appearing from 1800 to 1988 to 3600 in 1989; this will be reflected in the increased cost of a subscription for libraries. Moreover, this increase in cost is compounded by a programmed price increase: after holding the price per page of the Journal constant for three years, inflation and adjustments in foreign exchange rates make it necessary for the Publishers to increase the price per page (from 27 to 33 cents). The new rate (equivalent to 8.2 cents per 1000 characters) compares very favourably, however, with other specialist journals, as a recent survey by H. H. Barschall in *Physics Today* (41, 56, 1988) demonstrates.

The Proceedings volume of *Liquid Crystals* is a special case; the projected growth of the Journal indicates a smaller total number of pages in subsequent years. As we currently do not plan to publish other proceedings, this expected decrease in size will translate into a lower subscription price in 1990. We hope that you concur with our decision to make the Proceedings of the Centenary International Liquid Crystal Conference available to subscribers and that you will continue to support our efforts to publish the most exciting research conducted on liquid crystals.

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