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Liquid Crystals

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Editorial

George Gray

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Editorial

Since taking over in the UK Editorial Office from the founding editors of *Liquid Crystals* in January 1993, I hope that readers agree that the high standards of the journal have been maintained and that *Liquid Crystals* continues to provide for the international liquid crystal community a journal of the utmost excellence in which all aspects of research in the field may be published.

Certainly, the volume of papers submitted to the journal has increased steadily over the last five years, and the new format of the journal introduced in January 1995 has, I feel sure, made it an even more attractive place in which to publish. In addition, the journal has appeared online since 1997.

In view of the annually increasing volume of papers coming into the UK Editorial Office and the fact that with the passage of time, I must eventually relinquish my role as UK Editor, the Editorial Director of Journals of Taylor & Francis and I have agreed that we should have a staged succession to the UK Editorship.

As from 1 July, 2000, Dr C. T. Imrie of the Chemistry Department of the University of Aberdeen will be appointed as Editor Designate. Corrie Imrie is of course no stranger to the Journal as he acted as Assistant Editor to Professor Luckhurst in the early years of the Journal's existence. He will also be well known to the readership as an active and talented researcher in the field of liquid crystals.

From 1 July, 2000 to 30 June, 2001, it is envisaged that he will handle 40% of new contributions and I 60%; and from 1 July, 2001 to 30 June, 2002, he will deal with 60% and I with 40% of new papers. This will take us to July 2002, when the 19th International Liquid Crystal Conference, of which I am Chairman and Professor J. W. Goodby is Executive Chairman, will take place in Edinburgh.

This would seem to provide a suitable venue and point in time to announce my retirement as UK Editor.

During these two years of staged succession, all new papers should be sent to the one address provided by the PO Box in Wimborne and used by the UK office. From there, after logging onto a central file, the papers will be shared out for processing through review and final editing—in the case of acceptance—by Dr Imrie and myself. The masthead in the inside cover of the Journal and the Journal website will of course be revised to accommodate these changes.

A further point that I might mention here concerns the publication of coloured material in the Journal. At one time colour was used mainly for photomicrographs, but with an increasing number of papers on modelling, stereochemistry/chirality, pattern formation, etc., more and more colour is being requested. Colour production in the case of the Journal with its limited print runs is exceedingly expensive, and we have always had to operate carefully within a limited colour budget. Despite frequent increases in this, annual demand usually exceeds availability, and currently in mid-2000 the situation is very tight.

It should be noted that in the case of papers supplied with coloured material, figures will appear in colour in the online version of the Journal, even if black and white reproduction was chosen for the hard copy of the Journal. Bearing this in mind, contributors are asked to restrict requests for colour in the printed Journal to cases where the colour is of significance to the scientific content of the paper or necessary for an understanding of the text, i.e., not simply of a cosmetic nature.

GEORGE GRAY
UK Editor