



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl16>

For The Centenary of Mesomorphism

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Version of record first published: 20 Apr 2011.

To cite this article: J Biillard & Gw Gray (1984): For The Centenary of Mesomorphism, *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*, 102:5, 139-140

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01406568408072063>

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FOR THE CENTENARY OF MESOMORPHISM

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(Received for Publication June 28, 1984)

The significance and value of the scientific observations made by many of our predecessors in research have often come to be appreciated fully only after the elapse of many years. A most notable instance of this is provided by the work of F Reinitzer which led to his discovery of liquid crystals. This event was first reported in a paper¹ entitled "Zur Kenntnis des Cholesterins" submitted to the editor of the journal on 3rd May 1888. But who could have predicted then how very fruitful his studies would one day be?

We think that the centenary of this discovery should be commemorated by those of us currently working in the field of liquid crystals. After a century of progress, it would be of great interest to compare the different points of view held by various specialists about currently unsolved problems relating to fundamental knowledge or about applications of liquid crystals, and to review the historical development of our discipline. It seems to us that an appropriate way to do this would be to follow the method used by PP Ewald in 1930, ie, to produce a written discussion.²

Practically, we suggest the following schedule:

1986 - Selection of the principal contributors - between 15 and 25 experts who will write reviews relating to fundamental problems, applications and historical aspects of contemporary interest in the field of liquid crystals.

This list of contributors and topics would be publicised at the Eleventh International Liquid Crystal Conference.

December 1986 - Submission of the review papers to referees and distribution by post of abstracts of these review papers.

May 1987 - Definitive camera-ready copies of the main review papers to be ready.

June 1987 - Copies of the review papers would be sent to those requesting them based on their interest in particular topics and their reading of the previously distributed abstracts.

September 1987 - Deadline for receipt of written contributions from research workers who desire to raise specific questions, propose alternative points of view, report data supportive or contradictory of views expressed in the main papers, etc.

November 1987 - Deadline for receipt of the replies made by the main reviewers to the various written contributions.

1988 - Book to be ready for the Twelfth International Liquid Crystal Conference.

We ask for comments and suggestions from interested colleagues; these may be sent to either of the authors of this proposal.

REFERENCES

- ¹ F Reinitzer, *Monatsh Chem*, **9**, 421-441 (1888).
- ² Z *Krist*, **79**, 1-347 (1931).