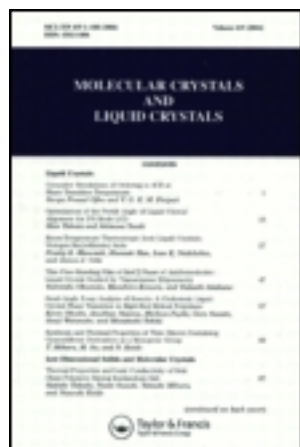




Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

Publication details, including instructions for authors and
subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gmcl19>

Preface

Version of record first published: 24 Sep 2006.

To cite this article: (1994): Preface, Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and
Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals, 240:1, v-v

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10587259408029708>

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PREFACE

A quarter of a century has passed since the first symposium on Organic Solid State Chemistry was held at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (USA) in 1968. During the years the title and the sites of the meetings have changed. The International Conference on the Chemistry of the Organic Solid State (ICCOSS) encircled the world in the following sequence: 1970—Weizmann Institute (Israel), 1972—Strathclyde (Scotland), 1975—Bordeaux (France), 1978—Brandeis (USA), 1982—Freiburg (Germany), 1985—Crete (Greece), 1987—Lion (France), 1989—Como (Italy), 1991—Vancouver (Canada), and most recently in Jerusalem (Israel) in 1993. During the last twenty-five years, the field of organic solid state chemistry has grown enormously. In the early stages, the investigations concentrated on the understanding of classical phenomena in the solid state such as photochemical and thermal reactions, and the study of molecular structure in relation to various physical properties of organic solids. In recent meetings, a very important and significant contribution has been added, the ability to plan, design and produce, by sophisticated means and strategies, new polymers, liquid crystals and solid materials (not strictly organic in nature) with unique physical and chemical properties that may be utilized for the benefit of mankind.

The 44 oral presentations together with over 110 posters, clearly show that meetings of scientists from various disciplines working in this field can produce better understanding and fruitful results for the advancement of science. About eighty of these papers are included in these proceedings. Such a meeting can only be organized with the help and dedication of many people and institutions. They are listed on the next page.