



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

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Preface

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Preface

This special volume of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* contains the Proceedings of the first Anglo-Japanese Seminar on Liquid Crystals held in Nara, Japan, on 26th-28th May 1999. The seminar was arranged to bring together members of the liquid crystal communities of Japan and the United Kingdom. The research undertaken by these two communities is at the forefront of international activities in many areas of this exciting subject. However, much of this research is of a complementary nature and so closer collaborations between the two communities would help to create a research base which would be considerably more competitive at the international level than simply the sum of the parts. The Seminar was envisaged as an invaluable forum in which to initiate co-operation between centres of liquid crystal research in our two countries as well as helping to enhance existing collaborations. It is to be expected that all such interactions would lead to the development of novel areas of liquid crystal science and technology.

To this end, scientists from the United Kingdom travelled to the beautiful city of Nara, one time capital of Japan and now the centre of much of the liquid crystal industry to meet with their Japanese colleagues. The three days of the Seminar proved to be stimulating, challenging, informative and very busy both during the day and long into the night. The formal lecture programme saw the presentation of some of the very best liquid crystal research undertaken in Japan and the United Kingdom, revealing the wide and interdisciplinary nature of the work. This breadth was emphasised at an exciting poster session where the really high quality of the research and the young researchers was very much in evidence.

An indication of the novelty of the science that was presented and discussed at this first Anglo-Japanese Seminar on Liquid Crystals can be found in this special volume. We hope that its readers will gain as much pleasure and benefit from this as those who were privileged to participate in this unique Seminar.

Finally, we wish to thank all of those institutions and companies who by their invaluable support and sponsorship made this Seminar possible. In particular we acknowledge the support of Ms. S. Takaichi, past Parliamentary Vice-Minister of International Trade and Industry together with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

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