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Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Preface

M. Vilfan , G. Lahajnar & R. Blinc

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PREFACE

The papers appearing in this issue of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals* were presented at the Fourth European Winter Conference on Liquid Crystals of Low-Dimensional Order and their Applications which was held in Bovec, a skiing resort in northwest Yugoslavia, from March 25 – 30, 1984. The Conference was organized by the J. Stefan Institute, E. Kardelj University of Ljubljana and sponsored by the Mathematical, Physical and Astronomical Societies of Slovenia and Yugoslavia and by the Steering Committee for Molecular Sciences of the Union of Academies of Arts and Sciences of Yugoslavia. On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee we gratefully acknowledge financial supports given by the Union of Research Communities of Yugoslavia, by ISKRA, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and by E. MERCK, Darmstadt, FRG.

The Conference in Bovec was the fourth in the series after Les Arcs (1975), Madonna di Campiglio (1978), and Garmisch-Partenkirchen (1980). Despite the large time gap between the conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and in Bovec it was obvious that the interest of scientists to present and discuss the field of liquid crystals in winter conferences is still lively. 98 participants attended the Conference in Bovec and 16 countries were represented. During the five days of the scientific program, 80 papers including review talks, short communications and posters were presented. 33 of them covered the problems of smectic liquid crystals which were the main topic of winter conferences in this series in their early stage. Special attention was devoted to phase transitions, hydrodynamics, instabilities, and to the phenomenon of ferroelectricity in smectic phases. However, the trend to include in the winter conferences all most actual and up-to-date topics from the field of liquid crystals has been by now fully accepted, and the larger part of the Conference in Bovec dealt with lyotropic nematics, mesomorphic polymers, and with cholesteric and blue phases. Several excellent papers were presented on dynamics in nematic phase and on its applications.

The present proceedings include the larger part of papers presented at the Conference. We hope that they will be interesting not only for the participants of the Conference but for all scientists in the field of liquid crystals.

On this occasion we would like to thank the International Advisory Board and our colleagues from the Local Organizing Committee who have greatly contributed to the success of the Conference. Special thanks go to Ms. M. Lavriša and to Ms. T. Rupnik for their help in preparing the proceedings. We as well express our thanks to the invited lecturers and to all participants of the Conference in Bovec who have made the Conference such a stimulating scientific event.

June 1984

M. Vilfan, G. Lahajnar and R. Blinc