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Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Incorporating Nonlinear Optics

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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals, held in Torino (Italy), October 14–20, 1988, was the second in a series in this rapidly growing research field. The first meeting was held in Napoli (Italy), in 1986. The Torino meeting placed an emphasis on surface interactions. Invited lectures and seminars were focussed on non-linear optical effects as well as on the use of optics as an investigative tool, for example in the determination of anchoring energies.

The meeting was well attended by active workers in the field (~ 80), all of whom were active in after-session discussions regarding the state-of-the-art of important topics discussed in the formal lectures. Among these topics were: wetting, crystal growth, flexoelectricity, anchoring, and elastic constants.

Industrial scientists participating gave some interesting lectures on applications, in particular dealing with the surface treatment problems associated with the new generation of displays.

Based on the success of the meeting, the participants agreed to continue the series of conferences by holding a meeting in Southern Italy in 1990. We are pleased to announce that the third International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals will be hosted by the University of Calabria, Dipartimento di Fisica. It will be held in the resort hotel S. Michele in Cetraro, which is near the University of Calabria at Cosenza on 1–5 October 1990.

Last but not least, the organizers of the 2nd Meeting want to heartily thank all Sponsors, and particularly Regione Piemonte and Comune di Torino, for their generous financial help which made possible such an important scientific rendezvous.

The Guest Editors