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Preface

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PREFACE

Two years have passed since the liquid crystal community decided in Pisa to meet again at the 15th ILCC in 1994 in Hungary. It was a great pleasure for the Local Organizers that after circling around the world in the sequence of Kent (1965, 1968), Berlin (1970), Kent (1972), Stockholm (1974), Kent (1976), Bordeaux (1978), Kyoto (1980), Bangalore (1982), York (1984), Berkeley (1986), Freiburg (1988), Vancouver (1990) and Pisa (1992), the 15th International Liquid Crystal Conference could be hosted in Budapest on 3-8 July, 1994.

Just as the preceding conferences, the 15th ILCC provided a broad forum for exchanging information on liquid crystals among most of the well-known scientists and engineers working in the field. This conference, with over 900 submitted abstracts and almost 700 active participants proved again that in spite of the increasing number of regional and topical conferences (e.g. ECLC'93 in Flims, FLC'93 in Tokyo, OLC'93 in Budapest, the Gordon Conference in the USA, etc.) such a general conference has its importance.

We would like to acknowledge the highly appreciated financial and/or spiritual support of Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, the European Community ACCORD Programme, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the International Liquid Crystal Society, the National Committee for Technological Development, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Research Institute for Solid State Physics and the Roland Eötvös Physical Society.

These Proceedings, which include about one-third of the conference contributions, appear in this and subsequent volumes of *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*. The papers, describing experimental and theoretical aspects of the chemistry, physics and application of liquid crystals, represent the wide range of topics covered by the conference.

Editing of the first four volumes of the proceedings was closed on October 1, 1994. Papers experiencing an excessive delay during the refereeing procedure will appear in future volumes.

As Guest Editors we would like to express our appreciation to all authors who submitted their work for inclusion in the proceedings and wish to thank those scientists who contributed by refereeing the manuscripts. We are very pleased to announce that the next conference will be held at Kent State University, USA in 1996.

Budapest, October 1994

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