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### Foreword

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## FOREWORD

The First Meeting of the Italian Liquid Crystal Society ("Società Italiana dei Cristalli Liquidi" [SICL]) was held from June 1st to 5th at the Hotel Capuccini Convento in Amalfi, a beautiful town on the sea along the "Costiera Amalfitana", one of the most famous resort locations in southern Italy.

About one hundred people participated in the meeting, which was organized in plenary lectures, invited lectures and poster sessions, with the aim of presenting the wide spectrum of activities carried on in this field in Italy, from the synthesis of new low mass and polymeric liquid crystals to the study of both structural and macroscopic properties of these materials. The aim of these proceedings is to provide a sample of the research presented on the chemistry and physics of liquid crystalline materials. The papers presented at this meeting were refereed according to the standard procedure for this journal.

We would like to acknowledge the support of all the sponsors, which made this meeting possible:

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Special thanks is given to Ms. Bianca D'Amato, whose assistance in the organization was essential to making the meeting successful.

Finally, as an introduction to this volume we have included a schematic presentation of SICL and of all the groups working on liquid crystals in Italy.

Giancarlo Abbate  
Franco Bloisi  
Francesco Simoni  
*Guest Editors*