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MCLC ENTERS ITS 30TH YEAR

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In 1966, with the awareness that a period of rapid growth of research on liquid crystals and molecular optics and electronics had begun, this journal came into being. After a brief period with the title *MOLECULAR CRYSTALS*, in 1969 the journal became known as *MOLECULAR CRYSTALS AND LIQUID CRYSTALS*. In fact, in 1966, we published the Proceedings of the First International Liquid Crystal Conference, which was held at Kent State University. The fields of molecular science represented in the journal have in common the importance of collaborative work between chemists, physicists and engineers in both the fundamental sciences and in the development of technology. Thus, from its very beginning, MCLC played a role as an interdisciplinary journal.

Browsing MCLC today is an experience which leads to cross-fertilization of ideas. Through the years, we have maintained our interest in studies of purity of materials, phase relationships, chemistry and physics of low-dimensional systems, clusters (including the recent burgeoning of interest in the fullerenes), electrooptics, magnetic properties of molecular materials, unconventional photoactive systems – the list can easily be expanded.

In our infancy, we published 400 pages per year; the journal has increased in size about tenfold in the intervening years. We have played a particularly active role in publishing conference proceedings, creating important archives. With the help of guest editors, we have insisted that appropriate review procedures be imposed on these volumes, and the general reaction of the community has been that publication of these conferences represents one of the most important sources for the researcher. In addition, we have generously supported those conferences which we publish, and frequently provide free copies of the proceedings to participants. Our international Editorial Board and Regional Editors assure broad representation in our policy decisions and convenient local handling of manuscripts.

During the coming year, we hope to introduce the CD-ROM edition of MCLC. Abstracts of MCLC are also widely circulated through the publication *CONDENSED MATTER NEWS*, which is available free of charge to all scientists working in that field. We will be continuing our policies of providing full color illustrations, where appropriate to the science, and reprints, both at no charge to the authors.

We have had the honor to participate in the growth of the field of molecular materials, and hope that we can continue to play an important role in the years to come. As always, we welcome your comments and input, and thank you for being among our loyal subscribers and readers.

M. M. Labes
Editor-in-Chief