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Preface

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PREFACE

This special issue contains material presented at the 6th International Topical Meeting on Optics of Liquid Crystals (OLC '95). This meeting was held in Le Touquet, France from 25–29 September 1995. In addition to the scientists usually attending such a series of conferences, it is worth noting that new researchers have joined the field, creating an interesting dynamic. On the whole, 90 scientists from 20 different countries attended the meeting. The organizing committee received more than 120 abstracts. We selected 47 contributions to be presented as oral communications, and 50 to be presented as posters. It should be stressed that, since there are so many conferences and some of the papers have in part been presented elsewhere, these proceedings contain only some of the communications presented. There is a substantial interest in the scientific community regarding the topics covered by the OLC series, initiated and first organized by E. Santamato. The success of such a conference is partly due to its dimension – a very friendly atmosphere, many discussions and, I hope, opportunity for scientists to start new collaborations. I am confident that the organizers of the next meeting (Germany 1997) will find the right balance between a large and small number of attendees to keep this series scientifically efficient, while maintaining the very friendly atmosphere. Finally, I would like to thank those who have helped me in organizing the meeting: some crucial problems that arose during the preparation were solved thanks to their efforts. I would like to also thank Gordon and Breach Publishers for financial support, as well as the other sponsors listed below. With their help, it was possible to allow some young researchers to attend the meeting at reduced rates.

Marc Warengthem
Chairman, OLC '95

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