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Foreword

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FOREWORD

This volume presents the Proceedings of the 2nd Italian Liquid Crystal Society (SICL) Meeting, held in Ravenna from 30 May – 1 June 1996.

As can be seen from the papers many aspects of liquid crystals are touched upon, ranging from chemistry and physics to technology. This interdisciplinary nature of the field was one of the motivations that prompted the formation of the Italian Liquid Crystal Group (GNCL) ten years ago and its formalization as SICL, affiliated with the International Liquid Crystal Society, (ILCS) in 1994. SICL has now about 200 members from more than 30 university laboratories, research centers and industries in Italy and its current President is Prof. E. Chiellini (Pisa). A more complete description of the structure of SICL and of the activity of the Italian groups is available from the SICL homepage (http://bohp03.bo.infn.it/sicl/).

The SICL national meetings are scheduled to be held every two years, with the aim of providing a survey of the recent developments in the field, exchanging ideas and fostering collaboration between researchers working in the different areas as well as providing a forum where young researchers can present their work.

The 1996 conference, attended by about one hundred people, was held at Marina di Ravenna, a small seaside resort village near Ravenna, an ancient city famous around the world for its churches and its Byzantine mosaics. The working schedule included 3 plenary lectures, 22 oral contributions and 46 poster communications and covered a large part of the research activity currently performed in Italy. Some of the original contributions discussed in Ravenna were submitted for these Proceedings and the papers that appear here were refereed according to the standard procedure of this Journal.

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Cesare Chiccoli Paolo Pasini Claudio Zannoni

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