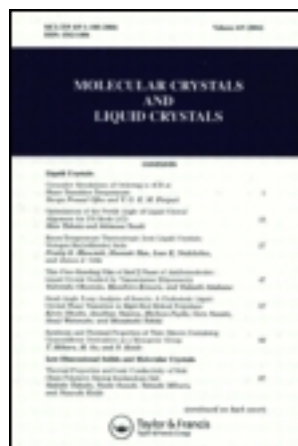


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Book Review

(Received March 03, 1999)

“Dynamics and Defects in Liquid Crystals” edited by P. E. Cladis and P. Palffy-Muhoray, Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, 1998. ISBN 90-5699-649-5 xxiv + 447 pages ; \$125.00.

This book is a tribute to a Professor of Physics, a prominent scientist and a warm and open-minded man, Alfred Saupe, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. His fundamental contribution worked out during his Ph. D. thesis, well known as the **Maier-Saupe-Theory** and implementing the induced dipolar forces as relevant for orientational ordering has influenced the research in Liquid Crystals since then. In the book mainly contributions are collected which were presented at a conference in honour of Alfred Saupe in 1995. Following the main topic of Professor Saupe’s work, there are contributions to Nematics (9), Cholesterics/Blue Phases (3), Smectic A / C (5), Helielectrics: Ferro/ Antiferro (7) and LCs & Polymers (4), all written by prominent scientists from all over the world followed by three published contributions by Alfred Saupe in original (German) and with permission of “Zeitschrift für Naturforschung A” from the years 1958–1960 and the English translation covering his seminal papers to the **Maier-Saupe-Theory** and, very surprisingly, a previously unpublished manuscript submitted to Physical Review in June 1969 by Alfred Saupe.

Alfred Saupe’s personal history (written by Peter Palffy-Muhoray), a personal remark by P.G. deGennes, the list of papers by Alfred Saupe and a laudatio “Alfred Saupe- 40 Years of Research” by Harald Pleiner, where the milestones of Alfred Saupe’s work were collected, round off the book.

The charm of the book is the unique opportunity to see the classical work of Alfred Saupe of 40 years and the broad influence of his fundamental work on one hand, and Alfred Saupe’s valuable impact on different areas of Liquid Crystal Research along with his scientific life on the other hand, reflected by the scientific community stimulating and interpreting such a widespread field.

This Festschrift in honor of a great scientist is published right in time and is meant for the liquid crystal community, for all who work on physics/chemical physics of anisotropic media and of course for libraries.

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