



Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals Science and Technology. Section A. Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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Preface

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Guest Editor's Preface

The sixth International Conference on Molecule-Based Magnets (ICMM'98) was held in the village des Tuquets, a fully renewed conference and holiday resort situated at Seignosse on the Atlantic Ocean shore in the South Western part of France from September 12 to 17, 1998. The previous conferences of the same series were held in Osaka (Japan) in 1996, Salt Lake City (USA) in 1994, Tokyo (Japan) in 1992, Il Ciocco (Italy) in 1990, and in Dallas (USA) in 1989.

The number of participants reached the record of 235 active scientists as well as a few accompanying persons. Actually, the Organizing committee received quite a few more applications, but the conference venue could not accommodate more people. An important aspect of the attendance was the number of people who did not attend the previous conferences, most of them being young scientists. This situation obviously brings witness of the fact that the field is developing very quickly.

The field of molecule-based magnets is strongly interdisciplinary, which contributes to its appeal. It brings together organic, organometallic and inorganic chemists as well as theoreticians, physicists, and materials and life science people. All these facets of this new field of research were approached and discussed during the conference. More precisely, the conference covered the following topics:

- Organic Radicals
- Metal-organic radical compounds
- Inorganic compounds
- High-spin clusters and single-molecule superparamagnets
- Spin-crossover compounds and molecular bistability
- Theoretical models and calculations

The conference consisted of seven plenary lectures, three of them delivered by outstanding physicists who so far did not work in the field of molecular magnetism, sixteen keynote lectures, about thirty contributed oral presentations, and some 150 poster presentations. All the contributors were invited to submit a manuscript for the Proceedings. These manuscripts were peer reviewed and 133 were eventually accepted for publication. These accepted contributions are gathered according to the topics listed above.

ICMM'98 benefited from the generous sponsorship of several academic, industrial, and local organizations. These organisations are listed below:

Université de Bordeaux
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Conseil Regional d'Aquitaine
European Science Foundation
Gordon and Breach Science Publishers
Journal of Materials Chemistry
Oxfords Instruments, France
Manics

The Organizing Committee along with the participants thank all those who provided us with financial and/or material support.

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The success of ICMM'98 was largely due to the assistance of the International Advisory Committee whose members are: A.J. Epstein (Columbus, USA); D. Gatteschi (Florence, Italy); K. Itoh (Osaka, Japan); H. Iwamura (Kyushu, Japan); O. Khan (Bordeaux, France); J.S. Miller (Salt Lake City, USA); and F. Palacio (Zaragoza, Spain). The Members of the Organizing Committee deserve also to be deeply acknowledged for their participation to all the aspects of the organization. These colleagues are: F. Brinquin; N. Daro; M. Drilon; J.F. Letard; C. Mathonière; O. Nguyen; P. Rey; J.P. Sutter; and M. Verdaguer.

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Olivier Khan
Chairman of ICMM'98