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'...One might suspect [from Dr Vorländer's book] that Herr Fried. Reinitzer, who is professor in the Botanical Institute at the University of Graz, had actually discovered the phenomenon in 1888, and I had merely renamed it! I present here, for the first time, the full story.
Otto Lehmann (1908)

THE LIQUID CRYSTALS BOOK SERIES CRYSTALS THAT FLOW

Compiled with translation and commentary by

Timothy J. Sluckin
David A. Dunmur
Horst Stegemeyer

This volume traces the history of liquid crystals from their discovery as a controversial new state of matter to their use as the active component in advanced opto-electronic visual displays. The story is told through reprinted original papers of key scientists published during the period 1888 to 1984, and the papers are accompanied by biographies of their authors. The papers that are not in English have been newly translated by the editors. The book is divided into five sections, each of which is introduced by a commentary written by the editors. The commentaries put the papers in context, and provide new perspectives on the contributing scientists and the development of liquid crystal science. The sections of the book are:

- The early period: liquid crystals or anisotropic liquids?
- The interwar period: anisotropic fluids or mesomorphic phases?
- The modern physical picture
- The development of display device technology
- Lyotropic and polymeric liquid crystals

The editors have more than 90 years of combined research experience in the physics, chemistry and mathematics of liquid crystals, and they have published on many aspects of the subject. In researching this volume the editors have revisited much of the oft-cited, but rarely read, early literature. Their objective has been to provide a valuable source book for researchers, new students and non-experts who seek an authoritative account of the development of liquid crystal science.

Timothy J. Sluckin
David A. Dunmur
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'...the example of "liquid crystals" gives us the opportunity to observe the influence of a word badly chosen. Lehmann did not really understand clearly how the substances he was studying would take their place in the hierarchy of material phases... [and] erred in classifying his liquids as crystals.'
Georges Friedel (1922)

ISBN 0-415-25789-1



9 780415 257893



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group



Taylor & Francis

11 New Fetter Lane,
London EC4P 4EE

29 West 35th Street,
New York NY 10001

www.tandf.co.uk
Printed in Great Britain

