INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LIQUID CRYSTALS

13th Workshop: COLLOIDS, INTERFACES AND LIQUID CRYSTALS

ERICE-SICILY: 19 - 25 JULY 2006

Sponsored by the: • Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research • Sicilian Regional Government • ALCANDO project (EU Commission) • Italian Liquid Crystal Society • INSTM

PROGRAMME AND LECTURERS

- Simulation of inhomogeneous liquid crystals
  - M.P. ALLEN, University of Warwick, UK
- Elasticity and anchoring-mediated interactions of particles and topological defects at the surface and in the bulk of liquid crystals
  - O.D. LAVRENTOVICH, Kent State University, OH, USA
- Life at ultra low interfacial tension: The interface of demixed colloid-polymer mixtures and the isotropic nematic interface in suspensions of colloidal platelets
  - H.N.W. LEKKERKERKER, Utrecht University, NL
- Exploring the phase behaviour of rod dispersions using external fields
  - P. LETTINGA, Jülich, D
- Wetting of micrometer-sized ellipsoids.
  - J.-C. LOUDET, CNRS Pessac, F
- Diluted colloids of nano-ferroelectric particles in liquid crystals
  - Y. REZNIKOV, Ukrainian Academy of Science, Kyiv, UA
- Two-dimensional nematic colloidal crystals self-assembled by topological defects
  - M. SKARABOT, University of Ljubljana, SI
- 2D dispersions - liquid inclusions in smectic free standing films
  - R. STANNARIUS, Universität Magdeburg, D
- Wetting phenomena in liquid crystal colloids
  - H. STARK, MPI Gottingen, D
- Surface effects in nematics: interfaces, decorated surfaces and colloids
  - M. TELO DA GAMA, Universidade de Lisboa, P
- Defects and textures in thin films of liquid crystalline polymers
  - E.M. TERENCE, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, UK
- Morphology and dynamics of microscopic bubbles in liquid crystals
  - H. YOKOYAMA, AIST, Tsukuba, J
- Defect structure in thin shells of liquid crystals
  - D. WEITZ, Harvard University, USA
- Specific heat spectroscopy in liquid crystal phase transitions with disorder
  - U. ZAMMIT, Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”, I
- Colloids on free-standing smectic films
  - P. ZIHERL, University of Ljubljana, SI
- Simulations of colloidal lattices confined to thin nematic layers
  - S. ŽUMER, University of Ljubljana, SI

POETIC TOUCH

According to legend, Erice, son of Venus and Neptune, founded a small town on top of a mountain (750 metres above sea level) more than three thousand years ago. The founder of modern history — i.e. the recording of events in a methodical and chronological sequence as they really happened without reference to mythical causes — the great Thucydides (~500 B.C.), writing about events connected with the conquest of Troy (1183 B.C.) said: «After the fall of Troy some Trojans on their escape from the Achaei arrived in Sicily by boat and as they settled near the border with the Sicilians all together they were named Elymi: their towns were Segesta and Erice.» This inspired Virgil to describe the arrival of the Trojan royal family in Erice and the burial of Anchise, by his son Enea, on the coast below Erice. Homer (~1000 B.C.), Thucydides (~300 B.C.), Polybius (~200 B.C.), Virgil (~50 B.C.), Horace (~20 B.C.), and others have celebrated this magnificent spot in Sicily in their poems. During seven centuries (XIII-XIX) the town of Erice was under the leadership of a local oligarchy, whose wisdom assured a long period of cultural development and economic prosperity which in turn gave rise to the many churches, monasteries and private palaces which you see today.

In Erice you can admire the Castle of Venus, the Cyclopean Walls (~800 B.C.) and the Gothic Cathedral (~1300 A.D.). Erice is at present a mixture of ancient and medieval architecture. Other masterpieces of ancient civilization are to be found in the neighborhood: at Motya (Phoenician), Segesta (Elymian), and Selinunte (Greek). On the Aegadian Islands — theatre of the decisive naval battle of the first Punic War (264-241 B.C.) — suggestive neolithic and paleolithic vestiges are still visible: the grottoes of Favignana, the carvings and murals of Levanzo.

Splendid beaches are to be found at San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello, and Cornino, and a wild and rocky coast around Monte Cofano: all at less than one hour’s drive from Erice.

More information about the «Ettore Majorana» Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture can be found on the WWW at the following address: http://www.ccsem.infn.it

DIRECTORS OF THE WORKSHOP

I. MUSEVIC - P. PASINI - C. ZANNONI - S. ZUMER

EMFSCC PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE

A. ZICHICHI