



Fourth European Meeting on Ferroelectricity

3rd – 7th September 1979
Portorož, Yugoslavia

Part 1

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GUEST EDITORIAL

EMF-4, the Fourth European Meeting on Ferroelectricity, was held in the seaside resort of Portorož, Yugoslavia, from September 2-7, 1979. It was organized by the J. Stefan Institute and the Department of Physics of the E. Kardelj University of Ljubljana and sponsored by the European Physical Society, the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Union of Mathematicians, Physical and Astronomical Societies of Yugoslavia. It was financially supported by the Slovenian Research Community and the Union of Research Communities of Yugoslavia.

The conference attracted about 300 scientists and accompanying family members from 20 different countries. The participants from 16 European countries – together with their guests from Japan, U.S.A., China, Brazil and other over-seas states – presented 262 contributions. Only invited review papers – altogether 15 – and invited topical papers were presented orally, whereas all papers – invited included – were presented as posters. There were two topical sessions – one on Incommensurate Systems, and another on Magnetic Resonance – as well as two Round Table Discussions. The first one on Materials and Crystal Growth was organized by Dr. H. Arndt whereas the second one on Ferroelectricity: Past, Present and Future was chaired by Dr. H.E. Müser.

There were no parallel sessions but the working schedule was rather hard and lasted sometime from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. with only

short breaks for lunch and dinner. Each poster was on display for a whole day so that poster sessions could be instead used for discussions and exchange of ideas. The fact that the poster sessions were crowded even in the evening shows that there is still a lot of excitement and enthusiasm in the field of both basic and applied ferroelectricity.

The contributions to the conference covered nearly all "classical" problems of ferroelectricity showing that the field of soft modes, central peaks, electrooptic materials, structural phase transitions, multiferroic and low-dimensional systems is still of considerable interest. In addition to the above subjects which were the center of attention at EMF-3 in Zürich in 1976 several new fields emerged in Portorož. These include the physics of incommensurate systems, non-linear excitations and the phase soliton problem, ferroelectric-like polymers, ferroelectric glasses and ferroelectric liquid crystals.

The editors of Ferroelectrics agreed to publish the proceedings in as short a time as possible. To speed up the process all manuscripts were given to the referees in Portorož and all authors ready manuscripts accepted by the referees were sent to the publisher within four weeks after the end of the conference. Those manuscripts which were not camera ready or where the referees suggested some changes which required correspondence with the authors could not be included into the proceedings. They will be published in a regular issue of Ferroelectrics together with contributions of

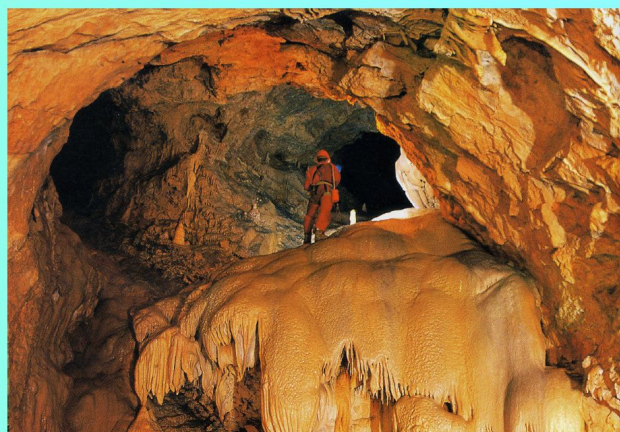
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these authors who were not present at the conference.

On this occasion I would like to thank all my colleagues from the International Advisory Committee and the Local Organizing Committee who have contributed to the success of the conference. I. Sega, M. Levstik, I. Levstik

and N.M. Schagina played a particularly important role in preparing the proceedings. Last but not least I would like to express my thanks to the invited lecturers and all participants who have made the conference such a stimulating scientific event.

R. Blinc



FOURTH EUROPEAN MEETING ON FERROELECTRICITY

List of participants

ARGENTINA
R.E. Juárez

AUSTRALIA
J.S. Dryden

AUSTRIA
D. Bauerle, G. Engel, P. Krenpel, F. Schwab, D. Wagner

BELGIUM
G. Verstraeten

BRASIL
G.A. Barbosa, A.S.T. Pires

CHINA
Chu Bing-Hu, Mo Wen-Yi, Wu Chien-Chang, Zhang Hong-Wu, Zhang Ying-Xia

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
M. Boudry, J. Fouček, A. Foulková, J. Holásková, V. Kopský, J. Kroupa, K. Nejedlik, J. Petráš, F. Smutný, J. Zelinka

DENMARK
J.A. Pedersen

EGYPT
M.A. Riad

FRANCE
R. Almaine, S. Aubry, J.L. Aude, D. Bernard, J. Boullet, J.P. Boyeau, R. Brion, J.Y. Dufrane, L. Costet-Majani, J.P. Chapelier, R. Curat, F. Denoyer, G. Dolino, G. Durand, G. Errandonea, S. Gauthier, F. Genais, L. Gille, G. Godetroy, L. Godetroy, G. Haurat, M. Jannin, B. Jannot, J. Lajzerowicz, R. Le Blond, J.F. Legrand, Y.-R. Lusin, G. Merlon, M. Massot, F. Michel-Cabellini, F. Michler, P. Moritzi, J. Nouet, A. Nowak, J. Paletto, D. Paquet, J. Ravez, C. Ridou, M. Rousseau, J. Schnecko, J.L. Servoin, A. Simon, J.C. Tolédano, P. Tolédano,

J. Torres, Tran Chan-Dinh, A. Trokner, M. Vallade, B. Wyncke

GERMANY (DDR)
D. Bütheing, E. Hegenbarth, G. Voelkel, W. Windisch

GERMANY (FRG)
J. Albers, H. Arnold, K. Betzler, H. Bilz, U. Buchenau, A. Busmann, R. Courths, H. Dederichs, K.H. Ehm, H. Gimm, K.H. Heardt, J. Helwig, S.E. Kaapman, R. Klein, W. Koch, J. Krueger, G. Lüth, V.R. Marathe, G. Meisner, H.E. Mueser, R. Orłowski, J. Petersson, A. Pietraszkowski, H. Schmitt, M. Stock, H.G. Urruh, G. Wentzel, W. Wersing, V. Winterfeldt

GREAT BRITAIN
F.W. Ainger, S. Allen, I. Kaufman, R.J. Nelmes, M. Taylor

GREECE
A. Bartsokas, A. Koutsoudakis, F. Millia, D. Siapkas

HOLLAND
T. Janssen, G.H. Jonker, T. Rasing

HUNGARY
B. Pelyi

INDIA
G.P. Singh

ISRAEL
A. Aharoni, L. Benguigui, S. Havlin, S.B. Lang, I. Lelchicht

ITALY
F. Bogani, F. Borsa, M. Grandolfo, I. Ortali, M. Vaciachino, P. Vecchia

JAPAN
Y. Ishibashi, S. Kojima, T. Nakamura, M. Takashige, M. Tokunaga

NORWAY

E. Fjær, R.M. Holt, S. Stokke

POLAND

B. Hilczar, A. Jaskiewicz, T. Krajewski, M. Meckowski, L. Sobczyk, J. Stankowska, J. Stankowski, W.A. Sylis

SOUTH AFRICA

M.C. Lawrence, G.N. Robertson

SPAIN

M. Aguilar, J.M. Cabrera, C. De Las Heras, J. Del Cerro, J. Fernandez, J.A. Gonzalo Gonzales, B. Jimenez-Diaz, E. Hernandez, L. Montoto, J. Peraza, S. Vieira Diaz

SWITZERLAND

H. Arend, E. Courtens, W. Depmeier, P. Guenter, R. Kind, W.J. Merz, P. Murali, S. Pleško, W. Rehwald, J.-P. Rivera, D. Rytz, H. Schmid, T. Schneider, E.F. Steigmeier

U.S.A.

M.A. Andersen, J.W. Doane, W.N. Lawless, N.E. Massa, K.A. Mueller, V.H. Schmidt, J.F. Scott, W.A. Smith, G.W. Taylor

USSR

A.T. Anistratov, I. Aleksandrova, A.I. Baranov, V.I. Belinitcher, E. Bursian, E.G. Fesenko, V.M. Fridkin, V.V. Gladil, A.A. Grekov, V.A. Isupov, L.N. Kamyshova, V.V. Klimov, P.J. Koshin, G.V. Kotlov, N. Krasnik, Krumin, A.Yu. Kudzin, A.P. Lavanov, V.I. Popolitov, O.I. Prokopenko, V.M. Rudyak, D.G. Sannikov, I.A. Shuvalov, G.A. Smolevsky, S.P. Solov'yev, B.A. Strukov, B.G. Vekhter, I.S. Zheludev

YUGOSLAVIA

M. Čopić, S. Barišić, R. Blinc, P. Cevc, C. Filipčić, D.L. Fox, M. Jančič, D. Jović, A. Kandiž, D. Kapor, J. Konstantinović, G. Lahajnar, B.B. Lawndić, A. Levstik, I. Lervik, B. Ložar, M. Luzar, L. Novaković, B. Orš, R. Ozmedkar, L. Picman, J. Pir, R.M. Pirc, J. Pirnat, T. Prelesnik, P. Prelović, M. Rožman, V. Rutar, I. Sega, J. Seliger, J. Slak, S. Stamenković, J. Stepišnik, M. Topić, Z. Trontelj, I. Vilić, M. Vilić, M. Zgonik, I. Zupančić, S. Žumer

