

## Editorial

The European Ceramic Society was founded in 1987 following discussions between a number of national ceramic societies which now include those from Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. The existence of the Society in part resulted from discussions which took place between the American Society and representatives from the European societies at which the need for a coordinating group in Europe was clearly recognised. A major role for the new Society was to organise the set of conferences which would now continue the tradition established by the Science of Ceramics series. The first of these will take place in Maastricht, The Netherlands, in June 1989.

Following the foundation of the Society, consideration was given to the establishment of a Society Journal. This was seen as providing a point of visibility for the existence of the new Society. It would also have the important role of providing a home for research work of high quality emerging from industry, universities and research establishments in the European countries. In this respect it should fulfil a role analogous to the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society* and the *Journal of the Japanese Ceramic Society* for those respective communities. The ambition would be, of course, to welcome work from outside Europe into the pages of the Journal; however, the character and atmosphere of the journal also should reflect something of the European viewpoint.

In establishing the Journal it was clear that a number of requirements would need to be fulfilled. The first and most important of these was that the emergence of the new Journal should not damage the work of the existing journals representing the national societies from this subject area. It was therefore critical to define the interface that would lie between the new Journal and the existing national publications. In meeting this requirement the view of those representing the several societies was that the new Journal should concentrate on the publication of original papers stemming from research work of high quality. This policy has accordingly been adopted as a defining statement of the direction which the new Journal will set out to follow.

A second requirement was that the new Journal should not add to the already generous supply of publications on the theme of ceramics. This has in fact been achieved following negotiations with Elsevier Science Publishers Ltd by way of the arrangement in which the new Journal will incorporate the *International Journal of High Technology Ceramics*. This earlier Journal, which has made good progress under the editorship of Dr Paul Popper and colleagues, will no longer appear, its role being included in that of the new Journal.

To summarise the position, the new European Ceramic Society now has its own Journal. The ambition is to make this a publication of the highest technical quality and to ensure that it offers a lively representation of research work in the subject area of ceramics taking place in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

**R. Metselaar**  
*President,*  
*European Ceramic Society*

**R. J. Brook**  
*Editor,*  
*Journal of the European Ceramic Society*