

Editorial

In this issue, it is a pleasure to continue the series of occasional columns in which the different national ceramic societies in Europe have the opportunity to introduce themselves. We welcome:

The French Ceramic Association: GFC

The 'GFC' (Groupe Français de la Céramique) was founded rather recently (1983) by a group of representatives from universities, research agencies and industries; the lack of such an Association in France had become evident as the development of 'new' ceramics was recognised to be taking a more and more important rôle throughout the industrial countries.

The leader of this group of representatives, Daniel Broussaud, became the first President of the GFC, a task which he continued until 1987 when Roland Cauville was elected as his successor.

Initially oriented around structural ceramics, the GFC has progressively and successfully extended its scope towards powders, electronic and nuclear ceramics and refractories. It has still relatively limited connections with domestic and construction ceramics, and has no glass or cement activities. The Association is open to individuals and organisations having interest in the education, research, production and uses of ceramics, either in France or indeed in any country.

Presently, the GFC has 400 members coming from universities and schools, from research agencies and from industry (powder, parts, equipment, users); 30 members are from abroad, generally from French-speaking countries. A monthly newsletter had been regularly published since 1987 and is used simultaneously for sending documents, programmes and other information concerning the Group's activities.

The Association organises its Annual Meetings in February in Paris (two days, one of general interest, one focused on specific topics). At least two more meetings are organised each year in various locations and often in cooperation with other Societies interested in materials. For instance, the GFC is co-organiser of the 'C' Congress and Exhibition held in Limoges every three years. The papers given at the meetings have been generally published in the French Review *L'Industrie Céramique*. More recently, the possibility of publishing scientific communications in the present Journal has been and will be used (i.e. reports from the coming JENI 8 meeting to be held in October 1990).

An annual 'Prix du GFC' is awarded for exceptional merit to the author of a thesis presented in France.

The GFC also edits an annual 'Directory' giving a list of members by name and affiliation. The GFC participated actively in the emergence of the concept of a European Organisation and was a founding member of the European Ceramic Society.