

## 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:

### Deutsche Keramische Gesellschaft (German Ceramic Society)

The Deutsche Keramische Gesellschaft (DKG) was founded in 1919 at the beginning of the remarkable period when science and technology made such rapid development not only in Germany but all over the world.

The study of records from that time shows that industry made great efforts to bring together scientists from universities, research institutions and technical schools as well as engineers already working in industry to exchange their knowledge in the field of ceramics. This resulted in the foundation of the DKG as the society responsible for promoting contacts not only in Germany but all over the world and for introducing scientific and technical progress on a regular basis to its members.

Today the fields of interest in the DKG extend from natural raw materials to highly sophisticated synthetic powders, from artware to engine components, from traditional to high performance ceramics. They cover all aspects of modern ceramic technology.

The Society organizes national and international conferences, symposia, regional chapter meetings and seminars. It issues a bilingual (German–English) Journal *cfi/Berichte der DKG* and also books on special subjects.

On the initiative of the DKG, the ‘ceramitec’ exhibition, which is now the world’s largest fair for equipment, processes and raw materials for the ceramic industry, was established in 1979; it now takes place every 3 years in Munich.

With the assistance of the DKG a databank for nonmetallic inorganic materials (SILICA) has been installed where the ceramic literature can be abstracted and where members can request a literature search.

The DKG initiates cooperative research work which is sponsored by the German Federal government. The results aim to solve technical problems mainly of the type encountered by small and medium sized ceramic companies. The results appear in technical reports which are available to all ceramic companies that are society members.

The DKG comprises several sections where specialists in the fields of basic science, processing, thermodynamics, raw materials, material testing and new materials application can meet and discuss their problems in more specialized groups.

In 1990 the society membership reached approximately one thousand personal members as well as 250 corporate members. The society has a headquarters with eight employees at D-5000 Köln/Porz-Wahn, Frankfurter Str. 196.

The president of the society is currently Prof. Dr Hans Hausner; he has held the position since 1987.

The DKG is one of the founding members of the European Ceramic Society (ECerS). According to the ECerS rules, the DKG has responsibility for the secretariat during the period 1989–1991 and will organize the Second ECerS Conference in Augsburg (FRG) in 1991.