

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 Netherlands Ceramic Society (Nederlandse Keramische Vereniging, NKV)

History

Before 1940, ceramic activities in The Netherlands were concentrated on structural clay ceramics, white wares and refractories. After the publication of patents on ferrites (Snoek, Philips Res. Labs, 1945), the Philips company began to look for cooperation in order to start the industrial development and production of magnetic ceramic materials. During 1946–1948, a number of colloquia were held with representatives from universities and industrial laboratories. These colloquia resulted in the foundation of the Nederlandse Keramische Vereniging (1948). The aim was to promote the investigation of scientific problems in ceramic materials in the broadest sense (including glass, enamels and sand lime-bricks). The activities included meetings, symposia, excursions and the publication of papers in the journal *Klei en Keramiek*, the latter in cooperation with the Ceramic Manufacturers Association (Vereniging Klei Industrie, VKI).

The status of the NKV initially was that of a private society. In 1978 the status became official following incorporation according to Dutch civil law. In the same year NKV and VKI formed the Nederlandse Keramische Federatie. During the first three decades, electro-ceramics and related ceramic technologies were prime topics at meetings and symposia. In cooperation with the Deutsche Keramische Gesellschaft, a series of joint meetings on electro- and magnetoceramics were held (1963–1975). It was the tradition in that period that the NKV president came from the Philips organisation. In the late seventies, structural ceramics became more important; nowadays it is the main topic.

NKV has always played an important role in international relations. In cooperation with the British Ceramic Society, the series of Science of Ceramics conferences was initiated in 1959 with subsequent conferences being held in Oxford (1961), Nordwijk (1963) and Maastricht (1967). After 1967, these conferences were held under the auspices of the Association Européenne de Céramique.

In 1977, NKV, by way of its responsibility for Science of Ceramics 9, broadened its scope to include general themes and introduced poster sessions as a major presentation form. The new formula resulted in five successful meetings. In the late eighties, the need for more European cooperation and for a single representative European organisation became evident. NKV/NKF jointly stimulated the foundation of the European Ceramic Society (1988). The first European Ceramic Society Congress was held in Maastricht in 1989.

Organisation

Together with the Ceramic Manufacturers Association (VKI), The Netherlands Ceramic Society forms The Netherlands Ceramic Federation (NKF) which is the Dutch member of the European Ceramic Society.

The Netherlands Ceramic Society (NKV) has about 500 individual members; the VKI has about 20 company memberships as well as the producer organisations of earthenware, bricks and rooftiles who have a collective membership in the VKI of about 110 associated companies.

The NKF issues the journal *KleiGlasKeramik* and the annual source book *Keramisch Jaarboek*. The journal, which appears ten times a year, publishes articles in Dutch with a summary in English, together with news items concerning national and international events and an agenda of important meetings.

The chair position of the NKF is either held by the VKI or NKV chairman and changes every year. The chairman of The Netherlands Ceramic Society is Prof. R. Metselaar (Technical University of Eindhoven and Centre for Technical Ceramics); its secretary is Dr R. A. Terpstra (Centre for Technical Ceramics, PO Box 595, 5600 AN Eindhoven). The VKI chairman is Ing. A. A. M. van Mierlo (Hoogovens Industrial Ceramics); its secretary, who is also the permanent NKF secretary is Mr J. A. J. Kemps (PO Box 36, 6994 ZG De Steeg).

Current Objectives

The Netherlands Ceramic Society stimulates the study of scientific and technical topics over the whole field of ceramics including cement, glass and enamel. To this end, about five meetings are organised every year with oral and poster presentations covering the whole field of ceramics.

The NKV has enamel and clay mineralogy sections which organise meetings on these issues; in 1991, the NKV will organise an international summer school on ceramic processing.

The aims of the NKF are to coordinate the activities of both the VKI and the NKV, to produce the journal *KleiGlasKeramik* and to promote education in ceramics.

The VKI also organises 'Technical Days' once a year where the sharing of technical know-how takes place in a social environment. The VKI also organises a two-year part-time graduate course in clay ceramics, white wares, refractories and technical ceramics.

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