

## 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 Spanish Ceramic and Glass Society (Sociedad Española de Cerámica y Vidrio (SECV))

The *Sociedad Española de Cerámica y Vidrio (SECV)* is an association that was founded with the objective, as established in its bylaws, of promoting the technical advancement of the ceramics and glass industries and also of encouraging their growth by means of basic and applied research as well as by the spreading of scientific, technical and artistic knowledge in these fields. It has also the aim of boosting the teaching of ceramics and glass in Spain.

After various preliminary discussions, the Spanish Society for Ceramics (glasses were still not included in its denomination) was legally and formally founded on 16 February 1960. The Society was then created with five sections: Basic Science, Clay Products, Porcelains, Refractories and Ceramic Arts. It also had an Education Committee.

The scope of the Society was clearly defined in its bylaws. To accomplish its objectives, the Society had to initiate the following activities:

- (a) Organisation of periodic meetings for the presentation of scientific and technical papers.
- (b) Bibliographical information.
- (c) Diffusion of scientific, technical and artistic knowledge in the fields of ceramics and glass by means of courses, conferences and both periodic and non-periodic publications.
- (d) Formation of special committees for solving specific problems of interest in the fields of ceramics and glass.
- (e) Promotion of the teaching of ceramics and glass technology in Spain.
- (f) Organisation and stimulation of research in all areas that may contribute to the development and improvement of the understanding of ceramics and glass.

The year 1968 was specially significant in the history of the Society in that the 11th International Convention of Ceramics was organised by the Society in Madrid. During the celebration of this Convention, the presidency of the European Association of Ceramics was transferred to the then President of the Society, Prof. Dr. Vicente Alexandre. This celebration was the first of a series of important initiatives taken by the Society in the international area.

The previously mentioned International Convention of Ceramics was followed by the International Glass Symposium (held in Madrid in 1973), the 1st Latin American Congress in Torremolinos, the Spanish–Portuguese 1984 meeting in Figueira da Foz (Portugal) and finally, the XIV International Enamel Congress which was held in 1986 in Barcelona, thanks to the Society's official representation of Spain in the International Enamel Institute.

This list of international activities of the society is complemented by others, such as its representation on scientific commissions and steering committees, its official presence in numerous meetings of foreign societies and in the most important international conventions.

An important initiative of the Society that has contributed to the further spread of its name in the industrial sector was to establish in 1977 the Gold Alpha Awards which are presented annually to winning exhibitors at the two ceramic fairs that take place in Valencia: CEVISAMA and CEVIDER. Four of these awards are given in recognition of the most prominent technological innovations among the manufacturing processes and products presented. Another four awards are presented for work in industrial design or for artistic merit. In the years since these awards were established, they have won an ever increasing prestige.

From its very beginning the Society has given the greatest attention and has devoted all possible material means and personal effort to the publishing of its bimonthly magazine. During these 30 years, 180 issues of its Journal have been published. In addition to the Journal, the Society has been responsible for the production of 25 books.

Its magazine has brought great rewards to the Society. It is not only a means of exchange among its members and the main medium for the diffusion of scientific papers; it has also enabled the Society to establish a valuable documentary exchange with the most important ceramics and glass societies of the world. Thanks to this, it has been possible to assemble an excellent library collection comprising 1500 books and 150 periodicals.

Our Society is called upon to play an important task in its roles of providing a union between research and industry, of spreading knowledge and exchanging experiences through its journal, of publishing works, and of promoting courses and organising meetings. The basic principles on which our Society is founded will draw an ever increasing importance from the future and from the full integration of Spain in the European Community.

**Jesús Ma. Rincon**

General Secretary of the SECV