

# Editorial

Members and friends of the European Ceramic Society will wish to give particular thanks to Dr G. N. Babini for his many contributions during the years of his office as President. Dr Babini and colleagues from the Italian Ceramic Society have given particular emphasis to widening the set of activities within the European Ceramic Society to include educational work in ceramics (with Professor Desmaison as the Chair of the Working Group), the coordination of research and development activity in ceramics (with Professor Freer as Chair of the Working Group) and other activities including industrial, publications and communications issues. There is no doubt that the Society will take on added life as a consequence of these initiatives.

It is important also to recognise the vigour and effectiveness of Italian colleagues and notably of Dr Bellosi as the Conference Chair in organising the Fourth European Ceramic Society Conference at Riccione (Italy) in the first week of October 1995. The meeting was impressive for its programme, for its wide level of participation and, not least, for the unfailing courtesies extended to visitors by the hosts. In this regard the Conference continued the tradition so well established in Maastricht, in Augsburg and in Madrid.

In line with the constitution of the Society, the Presidency has now passed from Dr Babini to Professor J. F. Baumard (Groupe Français de la Céramique) and all members of the Society will, in thanking Dr Babini, wish to give every support to Professor Baumard for the period of his office. The 1997 meeting of the Society will be held in Versailles, France, from 22–26 June 1997.

The 1995 meeting saw a growth in the number of member countries within the European Ceramic Society and steps will be taken in the coming months to ensure full representation of these countries on the Editorial Board of the Journal. In this way, participation will be extended to Denmark, to Hungary, to Latvia, to Rumania, to the Slovak Republic and to Turkey.

Recognising the full international standing of the Society, attention has been again given to the issue of abstracts and to the language in which they appear. As indicated in an earlier Editorial, the former practice of publishing each abstract in English, French and German did incur substantial delay in the appearance of papers as a consequence of the required translation. Following responses to the earlier Editorial and in particular a suggestion made by Professor Grittner, the Council of the Society has now decided to adopt an arrangement whereby the abstract to a paper will be published in English and, optionally, in one other European language where this is the wish of the author or authors and where the two abstracts are provided with the manuscript. It is hoped that this arrangement can reflect the wishes of contributors to the Journal and that it can reinforce the value of the publication to all those in its audience.

**Richard Brook**  
Editor