

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 Norwegian Ceramic Society

The idea of forming a Norwegian Ceramic Society was born in 1960 arising from the wish for better contact and cooperation among the ceramic industries in Norway, especially on the technical side. The wish was to create a forum where people with connection to the ceramic industry could come together and discuss technical matters and exchange experiences. The level of response was good and the society was accordingly formally formed on the 15th March 1961; it has thus long ago celebrated its 25 years anniversary.

The activity during these years has, in addition to the holding of two regular yearly meetings, comprised courses and seminars often in cooperation with sister organisations in neighbouring countries. The society has also organised research with Government support; without the foundation of the Norwegian Ceramic Society, the ceramic industries in Norway would not have the technical competence which they have today.

The members of the society today represent porcelain factories, brick manufacturers, the metallurgical industry, research institutions, suppliers of raw materials and include many personal members; the common factor is a connection/interest for ceramic materials. The annual meetings have been the backbone of the society, allowing members to exchange experiences, to study each others' factories, to make decisions concerning support for education and research and to have contact to foreign organisations.

The society soon realized the necessity for cooperation across borders owing to the relatively small size of the Norwegian ceramic industry; cooperation, especially with our Swedish colleagues, has been a big part of the activities and indeed led to the foundation of the Swedish Ceramic Society in 1962. The latter, with its bigger resources, has been able to develop intensive courses and educational programmes which have in turn been of great help to the Norwegian ceramic industry. Additional cooperation has taken place with the Danish ceramic industry and with the Institute of Ceramics in Britain. In 1964, the Society became a member of Association Européenne de Céramique. When the European Ceramic Society was founded in 1987, the Norwegian Ceramic Society made contact and we became a member on 1988; through the European Ceramic Society, the Norwegian Ceramic Society is also a member of the International Ceramic Federation. The President of the Norwegian Ceramic Society is a member of the board of the European Ceramic Society, the Secretary of the Society being the second representative.

The President is elected for a two year period while the Secretary retains his honorary office on a long time basis to secure continuity.

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