

Editorial

An Anniversary

It is now twenty years since the Journal of the European Ceramic Society, in the form of its predecessor the International Journal of High Technology Ceramics, was founded. In the intervening years, JECS has sought to fulfil its function as a topical, authoritative and forward-looking publication presenting the best of modern research in all branches of ceramics. It has tried to promote the interests of authors, readers and reviewers alike by providing responsive, alert and sympathetic attention to their concerns. The indications from such measures as the greatly increased page numbers and the rising citations impact factor suggest that JECS has indeed been warmly welcomed by all those actively concerned with research into ceramics.

But twenty years is a long time particularly in the context of research and its rapidly changing ambitions. The applications, the materials, the processing methods – these all undergo variation as the hopes of one day are translated into the achievements of the next. It is then particularly important that the Journal should show itself similarly capable of change to match the requirements of the changing research scene.

This changing world is seen in the very way in which the Journal maintains contact with author or reader. Much of reader access to the Journal is now by way of electronic channels: the number of downloads of papers from the Journal by

way of ScienceDirect – some 30,000 per month – confirms the fact that such channels now rival traditional access through the printed page. For authors, the facilities at ScienceDirect offer many attractions beyond those of the printed version. It is possible to track papers being prepared for publication, or to present as a matter of course full colour in figures in the online versions of papers, or to monitor the citations that appear in response to specific papers. Many authors have adapted rapidly in taking advantage of such options!

For the Journal itself, changes are planned which will ease the contacts between the editorial offices and authors. The Board structure is being reconstituted to ensure that it can remain fully responsive to the opportunities and challenges of a Journal which must serve the interests of readers and authors alike. Details of these changes will be reported in the coming months as they are introduced.

The intent here is simply to acknowledge and celebrate the twenty years existence of the Journal and to confirm that every effort is being made to strengthen its position as a valued, influential and alert participant in the world of ceramics research.

Richard Brook