

# FOREWORD

The Brazilian Ceramic Conference in its 58th edition (CBC58) took place at the Dall'Onder Grande Hotel Convention Center, Bento Gonçalves - RS, Brazil, from May 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, with the participation of researchers, scholars and professionals from Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Cuba, Germany, United States and Brazil.

CBC has been an itinerant conference since 1954, being held in several locations in Brazil. In 2014, the city of Bento Gonçalves hosted the event, the city is located in a beautiful mountain region in the South and it is known as the Brazilian capital of grapes and wine.

This Conference represents the most traditional event of the ceramic community in Brazil and aims to promote the interactions of various sectors involved in the ceramic field, including industries, technical schools, universities, research institutes, raw materials and equipment suppliers. Therefore, it has a broad character, which comprises not only ceramic materials, but also correlated subjects such as energy, environment, mineral resources, technology, quality control, process control and human resources.

During the Conference the participants had a wide range of events in several sessions of technical papers (oral and posters presentations) plenary and keynote lectures, panels, short courses, workshops and exhibitions. This edition submitted 721 and presented 539 respectively as well as 415 participants.

The opening plenary session was held by Dr. David Green, President of the American Ceramic Society and emeritus Professor at Pennsylvania State University. During the Conference it was signed The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the collaboration between The Brazilian Ceramic Society and The American Ceramic Society, aiming to integrate both important Associations.

Two tributes were delivered at CBC58, one to the geologist Paschoal Giardullo, former president at ABCeram for the years of collaboration with the Brazilian Ceramic Community, and to the Maximiliano Gaidzinsky College for forming professionals in the ceramic industry for the last 35 years.

From the papers presented at the Conference, 104 of them were selected for publication at Material Science Forum after a reviewing process. They cover a wide range of topics regarding to structure, processing characterization and application of ceramic materials.

The Editor acknowledges the contributions of the authors, and the voluntary collaboration of the Scientific Advisory Committee members and expert referees. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff, participants and sponsors for their support.

Ulisses Soares do Prado  
Guest Editor

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