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### ***CERAPIE AND THE EC(RI)CEs***

Issue 3 of *CERAPIE* concludes Volume 1 and contains another ten articles from the *5th European Conference on Research in Chemical Education* (5th ECRICE). Two articles are invited contributions, and eight have undergone the review process. Altogether, Volume 1 contains 41 articles, of which 7 are invited contributions, and 34 have undergone review. Fifty-six authors were involved. All contributions are from the 5th ECRICE: from a total of 101 contributions to the 5th ECRICE, over half of them have so far been submitted for *CERAPIE*.

Of the reviewed articles, 17 are research reports, 3 are research communications, while 14 articles are on the practice of chemistry education (9 papers, 2 notes, and 3 reports). It is obvious from these data that Volume 1 has been stronger on the research side, and this is natural if we take into account that the ECRICEs are conferences primarily emphasising chemistry education research. A full appreciation of the contents of Volume 1 can be gained by browsing the Contents of the Volume at the end of this Issue, where there also is an Author Index and a Subject Index.

Volume 2 will include three Issues again, and it is confidently expected that they will include both contributions remaining from the 5th ECRICE, and some independently submitted papers from other sources. The three issues of Volume 2 are planned for the months of February, May, and October 2001 respectively.

*Note that the financial situation of CERAPIE (from the 5<sup>th</sup> ECRICE) has now made it possible for no publication fee to be imposed for papers that will be published in Volume 2.* It is natural that most people (including myself) do not like to be charged for publishing their work. On the other hand, it is well known that science and chemistry education journals take too long to publish because of a limit to the number of published pages. Another policy that should make skeptical the science education community is that, of necessity, the quality criteria for published papers may be set too high, by this pressure for space. This makes it difficult for new researchers to enter an internationally competitive field like science education research. Page charges can resolve the problems, while causing new ones. By canceling page charges, I hope that *CERAPIE* is doing its bit to encourage authors to submit their work for publication.

In this Issue an announcement is included about the 6th ECRICE (see NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS in this Issue). According to the decision of the Division Council of the *Division of Chemical Education* of the *Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS)*, the 6th ECRICE, which will take place from the 4th until the 8th of September 2001 in the University of Aveiro, Portugal, will be combined with the *2nd European Conference on Chemical Education (2nd ECCE)* (The 1st ECCE took place in Budapest in 1998.) Note that the Portuguese organisers have suggested the acronym EC(RI)CE, and the title - *2001: a Chemistry Odyssey* - for the two combined Conferences.

It is hoped that Volume 3 of *CERAPIE* (which will be published in 2002) will include the main output from the 6th EC(RI)CE. In this way, *CERAPIE* will continue to be a publication that

mainly serves the EC(RI)Ces. On other hand, we must take into account that chemistry education and the effort to improve it through research is an endeavour that should not be restricted by geographical barriers. It is natural then that *CERAPIE* welcomes authors from everywhere in the world in this field of research.

Finally, on the completion of Volume 1, I would like to thank again all authors, reviewers, and readers of *CERAPIE* for their valuable contribution. In particular, I must thank Dr *Michael Gagan*, Chairman of the *Division of Chemical Education* of *FECS* for his constant encouragement and help with the publication of *CERAPIE*.