

60th Anniversary of *Materiales de Construcción* Journal

As we mentioned in our preceding editorial, in 2011 *Materiales de Construcción* (Vol. 61, No. 301) will be celebrating its 60th ANNIVERSARY. A number of papers have been published on the history of the journal from the outset to date (Calleja, J. (2001) "Cincuenta años de la revista. Últimos Avances en Materiales de Construcción", *Mater Construcc.*, vol. 51, nº. 263-264, 7-28, and F. Puertas, M. M. Alonso and T. Vázquez (2008) "La revista *Materiales de Construcción*. Historia, situación actual y perspectivas". *Informes de la Construcción*, vol. 60, nº 510, 81-86).

The conclusion drawn in these and other studies is that *Materiales de Construcción* is a national and international benchmark (with particular significance in Latin America) that has become a prestigious vehicle for disseminating new knowledge and research on construction materials. Traditionally, over 60% of the articles published in the journal have dealt with cement and concrete, viewed from a very broad perspective covering prime materials, performance and durability. Other areas of primary attention include sustainability and new developments intended to reduce the environmental impact of these materials, while at the same time recycling and re-using industrial by-products. The journal has also played, presently plays and in the future will continue to play a prominent role in the area of historic and monumental patronage, one very specific example of which can be found in the special issue on natural stone published in 2008 (vol. 58, nº 289-290). At the same time, *Materiales* also devotes space to other construction materials, such as wood, ceramics and burnt clay, glass, plastic and metal, carrying research articles on these subjects in nearly every issue.

We plan to commemorate this 60th ANNIVERSARY on the occasion of the 13th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE CHEMISTRY OF CEMENT, to be held in Madrid from 3 to 8 July of this year in the context of the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHEMISTRY. The editorial board believes that these two major events provide an ideal backdrop for spotlighting the journal's basic profile and celebrating this anniversary. We have consequently prepared the present special issue with articles dealing primarily with the chemistry of cement and concrete, their reaction products (essentially CSH gels), special cements, different types of cement additions and concrete admixtures, organic additives, fibre reinforcement for mortars and concretes, and aggregate. We feel that the issue contains significant scientific contributions and constitutes a particularly suitable complement to the Congress.

From the journal's stand at the 13th ICC, we shall attempt to portray its modern vision and projection into the future, because although it has been with us for 60 years now, *Materiales de Construcción* is a young journal that can look forward to a long and promising future. One of the Congress activities is a panel on the role of scientific journals in the development of the chemistry of cement, which we think will be an excellent platform from which to discuss the future of these periodicals.

Clearly, in 60 years *Materiales de Construcción* has benefitted from the time, effort, enthusiasm and know-how devoted by many people, to whom it owes its international impact and its listing in the major databases, including JCR-ISI, KOW and SCOPUS, to name a few. The present is a tribute to all the journal's editors-in-chief, coordinators, members of its editorial and advisory boards and the staff of the Institute's various Publication Departments who have worked on its editing, layout and advertising over the years. We take this opportunity to congratulate them all on this 60th anniversary and thank them for their dedication.

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