

COMMENT

CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS—A 25-YEAR RETROSPECT

(Received 31 January 1978)

Annual Clay Minerals Conferences have been organized successfully for 25 years. The first was in July 1952, at the University of California, Berkeley, and the 25th was in Kingston, Jamaica, in August 1977. The Committee on Clay Minerals of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council was organized in 1952 under the chairmanship of Professor Ralph E. Grim. This committee sponsored the annual conferences and published proceedings from 1952 until 1963. The annual conferences were very successful in bringing together clay workers from many disciplines who were interested in fundamental and applied clay mineralogy. Soil scientists, colloid chemists, mineralogists, geologists, ceramists, engineers, and others presented papers and led discussions that allowed much cross-fertilization of techniques and stimulated many scientific ideas. This strong interdisciplinary group recognized that a more permanent organization was needed if the important annual forum were to continue. Accordingly, The Clay Minerals Society was organized and succeeded the Committee on Clay Minerals in 1963. The Clay Minerals society has sponsored the annual meetings and publications since 1963.

The first proceedings volume was published as Bulletin 169 of the California Division of Mines. The second through fifth Clay Conference Proceedings were published by the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, and the sixth through the fifteenth by Pergamon Press. Pergamon has also published the bimonthly journal of the Society, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, beginning with Volume 16 in 1968, up to the present. Starting in 1979 The Clay Minerals Society will be the publisher of *Clays and Clay Minerals*, which is now being printed by Allen Press of Lawrence, Kansas. We acknowledge the valuable contribution of Pergamon Press in promoting our journal to its present international stature.

The success of the annual conferences, the publications, and the Society are due to many, many individuals and companies who have contributed their time, organizational abilities, and money. The Clay Minerals Society today has a sound financial base on which to grow and prosper. Interdisciplinary scientific interest has been maintained throughout 25 years, and it is rewarding to see many of the same faces at recent conferences that attended those in the 1950's. The annual conferences attract many foreign scientists interested in clay minerals, and many foreign contributors to our journal. International and interdisci-

plinary are two key words describing the breadth of the Society's impact.

Special acknowledgement is due the three Chairmen of the pioneering committee on Clay Minerals of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council: Ralph E. Grim, Walter D. Keller, and A. F. Frederickson, all of whom so ably directed our activities from 1952 to 1963. The past Presidents of The Clay Minerals Society also deserve mention for maintaining the growth and activities of the Society. They are, in order of election since 1963: Richards A. Rowland, James W. Earley, Haydn H. Murray, Marion L. Jackson, Charles E. Weaver, Paul G. Nahin, George W. Brindley, John F. Burst, Sturges W. Bailey, William F. Bradley, Katharine Mather, John W. Jordan, Stanley B. McCaleb, John Hower, and John B. Hayes. The other officers of the Society, the Council, and members of the various committees have all contributed to the success of the Society. The Sustaining Members (contributing companies) deserve special mention in that the money they gave us has been invested and provided the financial base for the Society to grow stronger and more active.

The annual Clay Minerals Conferences and The Clay Minerals Society have fostered publications that have contributed substantially to our basic understanding of the mineralogy, geology, chemistry, genesis, and applications of clay minerals. The growth from a fledgling group operating as the Committee on Clay Minerals in 1952 to The Clay Minerals Society comprised of several hundred clay scientists in 1978 is indeed a tribute to all those who have worked with such dedication during the past 25 years. Clay science and technology have direct applications to solving many of mankind's basic problems of food, energy, industrial resources, and conservation. Let us hope that the next quarter-century will witness The Clay Minerals Society providing ever increasing support to those who meet the challenges. We can get a good start on the next 25 years by making the 26th Clay Minerals Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, October 8–11, 1978, the best attended and most stimulating of all.

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