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The Clay Minerals Society

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Richard Brown

As early June approaches and I near the end of my term as president of The Clay Minerals Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have volunteered their time and talents to help run the Society. As a volunteer organization the Society could not survive without members willing, each year, to selflessly contribute the countless hours necessary to conduct the Society's business. Because membership is such an important issue, I would like to take a moment to briefly describe some of the things that we are doing, or can do, to increase membership in CMS.

At its inception, The Clay Minerals Society was composed entirely of members from North America. As interest in the Society has grown over the years, the makeup of the Society has changed, so that today it is truly an international group with about half of our members residing outside of North America. The 'internationalization' and diversification of our membership present us with great opportunities as well as some challenges.

The Society's management recognizes that, in order for the Society to grow, we need to continue to add value to membership so that people from all backgrounds and locations who are interested in clays will see The Clay Minerals Society as *the* organization of which they need to be a part. Since value means something different to each person, this is a challenging task. The best way to define what can be done in this area is to ask our current members. In 2003 we conducted a formal survey of all active members asking them how the Society was doing in fulfilling their professional needs and expectations and how we could do this better. Late last fall, vice president Ray Ferrell sent out an informal e-mail survey again asking members how we could

improve the Society. We are using the information gathered from these surveys to productively target those areas that will yield the most value for our members with the resources we have available.

One of the actions we have taken to respond to member comments is to improve the content and utility of the Society's website. We have upgraded our online membership renewal process, added the capability to purchase publications online during membership renewal, enhanced the online membership directory search capabilities, provided online ordering and billing for those wishing to purchase source clay materials, and provided space for authors publishing in *Clays and Clay Minerals* to deposit important additional data relating to their published work. We are now considering adding online membership application, full-time publication ordering, and online election balloting capabilities as well. We have also added a suite of productive and fun tools to assist K-12 educators to teach young people about clays and their usefulness in today's world.

In order to foster a more open discussion of clay research, the Society has also established an open-access policy for *Clays and*

Clay Minerals. Our archive of CCM issues, which currently includes volume 1 (1952) through volume 49 (2001), is freely available to anyone through the Society's website and can be purchased in DVD format from the office. Volumes from 2002 to date are also available online to current CCM subscribers, through links on the CMS website to Ingenta and GeoScienceWorld.

There has also been a clear call from our members to increase the interaction of the Society with other clay and non-clay societies. Our very successful joint meeting last year at Oléron Island, France, with the Groupe Français des Argiles was a first step in that direction. In 2008 we will be joining with the Geochemical Division of the American Chemical Society to hold a joint meeting in New Orleans. Future meetings with other societies, both in and outside North America, are now being planned to ensure that this outreach process continues. These efforts will provide opportunities for CMS members to meet and associate with their scientific peers in other organizations, thus stimulating cross-discipline cooperation. This, in turn, will result in a stronger and more vibrant CMS.

Recognizing that young scientists are the future of our Society, we have also strengthened our outreach programs to students by increasing funding for student research grants and student travel awards to CMS meetings. To encourage the academic growth of students and their participation in the Society, we also sponsor a contest at each annual meeting to determine the best student paper and poster presentations. The winners and first runner-ups receive a cash award and are

publicly honored by the Society. This year, we have also begun offering a free student membership to all academic departments with at least one CMS member on faculty; the membership can be awarded to the student of their choice.

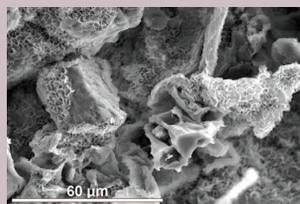
The recent move of the Society office from Colorado to Chantilly, Virginia, is already adding value to the Society by enhancing our professionalism, increasing our visibility, and enabling us to interact more effectively with other clay and non-clay societies. Centralization of all office and management functions in the new office should also allow us to reduce office cost while enabling the Society office to better serve our membership.

While these initiatives undeniably add value to CMS for its members, they do not, by themselves, necessarily bring in new members. That is why we have launched an aggressive campaign to reach out to groups of people who are not currently members of CMS, such as authors of papers on clays and inventors of patented technologies that employ clays, and tell them about the Society and invite them to join. Of course we are also seeking to make other potentially interested people aware of CMS as well. And that is where you can help spread the word about the value of membership in CMS. If you hear of someone who might be interested in joining the Society or if you have an idea for increasing the value of the Society, please pass it on to the Society office or one of the officers.

Thanks to all CMS members for your help and support.

Richard Brown
Past President

"IMAGES OF CLAY" NEEDS YOUR IMAGES!



Smectite coatings on detrital grains in arkose

The Clay Minerals Society and the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society have joined forces to share the "Images of Clay" archive. This is a web-based archive of pictures of clays and clay minerals freely available to all to download for non-profit purposes, such as the teaching of clay mineralogy. It can be accessed via The Clay Minerals Society's website www.clays.org.

Anyone wishing to contribute images to this archive should e-mail them to Steve Hillier at S.Hillier@macaulay.ac.uk or to Ray Ferrell at rferrell@lsu.edu. Also, please download and complete the copyright form (pdf format) and send a hard copy, by post, to Dr Steve Hillier, Soils Group, Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH, Scotland.

JOURNAL SCRIPTS

Clays and Clay Minerals *All-Time 'Top 10'*

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(SOURCE: WEB OF SCIENCE)

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Steven M. Kuznicki, Christopher C.H. Lin, Junjie Bian, and Alejandro Anson – CHEMICAL UPGRADING OF BOWIE, ARIZONA SEDIMENTARY NA-CHABAZITE

Philip S. Neuhoff and Jie Wang – ISOTHERMAL MEASUREMENT OF HEATS OF HYDRATION IN ZEOLITES BY SIMULTANEOUS THERMOGRAVIMETRY AND DIFFERENTIAL SCANNING CALORIMETRY

Etienne Balan, Emmanuel Fritsch, Thierry Allard, and Georges Calas – INHERITANCE VERSUS NEOFORMATION OF KAOLINITE DURING LATERITIC SOIL FORMATION: A CASE STUDY IN THE MIDDLE AMAZON BASIN

Victor A. Drits, Holger Lindgreen, Boris A. Sakharov, Hans Jørgen Jakobsen, Anthony E. Fallick, Alfred L. Salyn, Lidia G. Dainyak, Bella B. Zviagina, and Dan N. Barfod – FORMATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF MIXED-LAYER MINERALS BY TERTIARY INTRUSIVES IN CRETACEOUS MUDSTONES, WEST GREENLAND

Juan Jiménez-Millán, Mercedes Vázquez, and Nicolás Velilla – DEFORMATION-PROMOTED DEFECTS AND RETROGRADE CHLORITIZATION OF BIOTITE IN SLATES FROM A SHEAR ZONE, SOUTHERN IBERIAN MASSIF, SE SPAIN

Iuliu Bobos, Philippe Vieillard, Bernard Charoy, and Fernando Noronha – ALTERATION OF SPODUMENE TO COOKEITE AND ITS PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE STABILITY CONDITIONS IN LI-BEARING APLITE-PEGMATITES FROM NORTHERN PORTUGAL

M.V. Villar – WATER RETENTION OF TWO NATURAL COMPACTED BENTONITES

Fabienne Trolard, Guilhem Bourrié, Moustapha Abdelmoula, Philippe Refait, and Frédéric Feder – FOUGERITE, A NEW MINERAL OF THE PYROAURITE-IOWAITE GROUP: DESCRIPTION AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE

CLAY BITES

New Editor in Chief Found

At the recent CMS meeting in Santa Fe, a new editor in chief of *Clays and Clay Minerals* was appointed as a result of a unanimous decision of Council. On January 1, 2008, Joseph W. Stucki will step into this important role for a three-year term, taking over from the current editor, Derek Bain. Dr. Stucki has had a long and productive career in clay science, with over 100 papers and a long involvement in the CMS, including a stint as president in 1997–1998. Dr. Stucki said, “My first paper was published in *Clays and Clay Minerals*. I am at a stage where I believe I have both the flexibility of time and the intellectual interest to take on this position, and I will enthusiastically seek further opportunities to enhance the scientific quality, readership, and reputation of the journal.”

Where's the Next Meeting?

The 45th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society will be held April 6–10, 2008 in New Orleans, in conjunction with the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. Under the ACS umbrella, a full CMS program will be held, as always, but the meeting will also provide CMS members with an excellent opportunity to interact with the ACS membership. Conversely, ACS members will be able to attend our sessions and get to know our Society. The meeting is being organized by Brenda Ross (e-mail: bross@cottey.edu). Note that the timeline for submission of abstracts is **August 13–October 28**. Additional information can be found at www.cottey.edu/clay.

CLAYS IN THE NEWS

The International Geoscience Program (IGCP), a cooperative enterprise of UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), has initiated a new project entitled “Clays and Clay Minerals in Africa.” The primary aims of IGCP are to facilitate international collaboration among scientists from around the world in research on geological problems, particularly between individuals from industrialized and developing countries. Whereas clay and clay mineral occurrences and deposits in many parts of the world are well documented, this is not the case with those in Africa. The project aims to identify and characterize selected suites of clays and clay minerals in the African continent to understand their origin and advise on their exploitation potential. The project covers many areas of clay science and aims to initiate a network of proposals on different themes tied to the IGCP project. These themes are paleoenvironments; clay mineral genesis; mineralogical characterization; chemical/geochemical characterization; physical and related properties; stable isotopes and dating; clays in medicine/pharmaceuticals and

geophagia; agricultural, environmental, and industrial applications of clays; clays in soils; clay mineral processing/beneficiation; and clay mineral mining and extraction. It will also seek to identify the most appropriate technologies for the utilization of clays and clay mineral resources—technologies that will be most economically beneficial to local communities in terms of sustainable development. A series of short courses, workshops, and seminars aimed at promoting knowledge in clays and clay minerals are central to the project. A workshop is planned to lead to the formation of an African Clays Group (ACG), which will promote the clays and clay minerals body of knowledge (CCMBK) in the African continent. Enquiries should be directed to Dr. G. Ekosse, Coordinator of Geology, Mining and Minerals Programs, School of Physical and Mineral Sciences, University of Limpopo, Private Bag X1106, Sovenga 0727 South Africa. Tel.: +27 15 268 2451; Fax: +27 15 268 2362/2893; E-mail: ekosse@ul.ac.za; Gekosse@excite.com