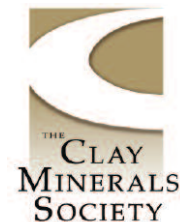


www.clays.org

The Clay Minerals Society

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In the last *Elements* issue, I mentioned that the CMS membership had evolved from a US majority to an international majority. The Clay Minerals Society is changing, and we have to be cognizant of where our membership is and where our future lies. We welcome our international members and value their opinion. Our next president, Scotland's Derek Bain, will lead us boldly into this new era. To highlight this transformation, we have taken another step that recognizes the changed CMS.



The all-new CMS logo

The new CMS logo that you see here is our way of expressing our newness. This logo represents the efforts of many dedicated souls and is the product of much discussion. The work was done beautifully by Mr. Timothy Phillips, a graphics designer at the University of Cincinnati. To some the logo appears as a C and represents the clays and their mysteries that we spend time pondering, while to others it

conjures a more future-related context. Some have said that it looks like a road—I like this image as it conveys continuously changing scenery and a journey. Whatever it conveys to you, we hope you enjoy The Clay Minerals Society. We look forward to seeing you in 2009 at the annual meeting in Montana, U.S.A.

Andrew Thomas

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ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

CMS is making progress in the areas of electronic communication and online conduct of its business. We'd like to encourage feedback about what works and what doesn't, and we welcome suggestions for improvement. The electronic ballot introduced this year produced a higher-than-expected return of votes, and it will soon be possible to conduct all of the business related to membership and purchase of publications directly online. A major overhaul of the website is in the works. The chief goal of revision is to improve navigation from the home page to linked pages and other sites. We would

like CMS members to send us a list of the tasks they most often try to accomplish when visiting the website. We plan to modify the site to make the most frequently visited sections easier to reach from the home page. Are there other topics or areas of interest that you would like to have added to the primary navigation buttons? Any opinion regarding items that make our site useful to non-members would also be appreciated. Send your comments via e-mail to rferrell@lsu.edu. If you are impressed by another society website, send us the URL so that the committee may study its organization scheme. Thanks.

BENTONITES

A proposal by The Clay Minerals Society for a thematic issue of *Elements* devoted to bentonites has been accepted by the journal's editorial board, and this issue is scheduled to be published in February 2009. Of all naturally occurring clays, bentonites are arguably the most interesting and versatile. Articles will cover the nature and occurrence of bentonites, geological aspects, exploration, mining, production, medical applications, environmental applications, chemically modified bentonites, and nanocomposites. The authors include Malek Bouazza, Richard Brown, Katie Carrado, George Christidis, Jock Churchman, Don Eisenhour, Ray Ferrell, Will Gates, Necip Güven, Shelley Haydel, Warren Huff, Peter Komadel, and Lynda Williams, with Derek Bain acting as guest editor. There should be something of interest to all readers of *Elements*!

JOURNAL SCRIPTS

The following are some papers that have been accepted for publication in future issues of *Clays and Clay Minerals*:

- H.-R. WENK, M. VOLTOLINI, M. MAZUREK, L.R. VAN LOON, AND A. VINSOT – Preferred orientations and anisotropy in shales: Callovo-Oxfordian shale (France) and Opalinus clay (Switzerland)
- ALI GÜREL AND SELAHATTIN KADIR – Geology and mineralogy of Late Miocene clayey sediments in the southeastern part of the central Anatolian volcanic province, Turkey
- ALAIN DECARREAU, SABINE PETIT, FRANÇOIS MARTIN, FRANÇOIS FARGES, PHILIPPE VIEILLARD, AND EMMANUEL JOUSSEIN – Hydrothermal synthesis between 75 and 150°C of high-charge ferric nontronites
- STEPHAN KAUFHOLD, REINER DOHRMANN, DIETRICH KOCH, AND GEORG HOUBEN – The pH of aqueous bentonite suspensions
- MARIA DOLORES RUIZ CRUZ – Na-bearing white micas from Triassic rocks of the transition between Maláguide and Alpujarride Complexes (Betic Cordillera, Spain)
- DOUGLAS K. MCCARTY, BORIS A. SAKHAROV, AND VICTOR A. DRITS – Early clay diagenesis in Gulf Coast sediments: new insights from XRD profile modeling
- CELIA MAQUEDA, AGUA SANTAS ROMERO, ESMERALDA MORILLO, JOSÉ L. PÉREZ-RODRÍGUEZ, ANTON LERF, AND FRIEDRICH ERNST WAGNER – The behavior of iron in ground and acid-treated vermiculite from Santa Olalla
- MIGUEL ÁNGEL MARTÍN AND CARLOS GARCÍA-GUTIÉRREZ – Log self-similarity of continuous soil particle size distributions estimated using random multiplicative cascades



The 46th annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society, "Clays of the Big Sky," will be held June 6–11, 2009, in Billings, Montana, U.S.A. The scientific meeting will be preceded, on June 6, by a field trip to "Bentonite Country" in the Big Horn Basin of northwestern Wyoming to see and discuss the geological setting, mining, and processing of Wyoming sodium bentonite. General and technical sessions will run on June 7–9, followed by a workshop on June 10 and 11. The workshop, "Clays of Yellowstone National Park," takes a new format this year and will be held in the field. So mark your agenda now for what promises to be a fantastic meeting. For further information and updates, see the CMS website www.clays.org/home/HomeAnnualMeeting.html.