

# The Clay Minerals Society

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual meeting of the CMS, commemorating its establishment as a scientific society, will be held on October 6–10 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA. As mentioned in the previous President's Corner, the CMS website ([www.clays.org/CMS%20ORGANIZATION/CMShistory.html](http://www.clays.org/CMS%20ORGANIZATION/CMShistory.html)) provides basic information on the founding of the society. To provide our members and other readers of *Elements* with

more details, the CMS has started publishing a series of short contributions on our history, which will appear on our society page in the remaining *Elements* issues in 2013. The second installment, like the first, was prepared by Dr. Duane (Dewey) Moore, previously at the Illinois State Geological Survey in Urbana and currently at the University of New Mexico.

**Peter Komadel** ([peter.komadel@savba.sk](mailto:peter.komadel@savba.sk))  
President, The Clay Minerals Society

## HOW THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY GOT STARTED, PART II

Interest in clays was developing around the globe. This trend was interrupted by the beginning of World War II. Scheduled before the U.S. became involved, a symposium was held at the University of Chicago in February 1942, during which Professor Ralph Grim delivered a long paper titled "Modern Concepts of Clay Materials"<sup>1</sup>, along with four other papers about clay scientists from other disciplines. This symposium was a manifestation of interest in clays from many points of view: agriculture, engineering, geology, and the ceramic, rubber, paper, petroleum, paint, fiberglass, and many other industries. Grim's exhaustive, 50-page review of what was known about clays and clay minerals almost certainly was the precursor of his book *Clay Mineralogy*, first published in 1953. Grim's review, and the other four papers in the same volume, had the effect of inspiring a group of people from several disciplines to plan a symposium, "Problems of Clay and Laterite Genesis," to be held in association with the 1951 meeting of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers in St. Louis.

The original suggestion for this symposium came from John J. Collins, who remained involved but transferred major responsibilities for its organization to A. F. Frederickson, then at Washington University; at this institution, Frederickson directed the thesis studies of both Bob Reynolds and John Hower. The participants, including Thomas Bates, John Burst, Ralph Grim, Walter Keller, Georges Millot, and Rustum Roy, thought that their symposium was such a success that they charged Ralph Grim with the task of seeking the sponsorship of the National Research Council, through its Clay Mineral Committee, for an annual meeting. Grim's success made this 1951 meeting the precursor of The Clay Minerals Society. The first of the eleven meetings leading up to the incorporation of The Clay Minerals Society was held at the University of California–Berkeley in 1952, and this institution published the first Proceedings. The National Research Council supported publication of the succeeding Proceedings until The Clay Minerals Society was officially incorporated in 1963, when the society assumed the publishing responsibility. In 1968, the publication was changed to a journal format, and *Clays and Clay Minerals* was born.

**Duane Moore**  
University of New Mexico

1 Grim RE (1942) Modern concepts of clay materials. *Journal of Geology* 50: 225-275

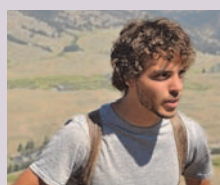
## CMS NEWS FROM THE 2012 GSA MEETING

The Clay Minerals Society is an "associated society" of the Geological Society of America (GSA). Representatives of the CMS attend meetings of all the associated societies each year at the annual GSA meeting.

The "umbrella" role played by organizations like GSA and the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) becomes clear at these meetings. Small societies, including CMS, together with these larger organizations are better positioned to lobby government and funding agencies and to represent our science on a national and international stage. The meetings provide a great opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. At last fall's meeting, Howard Harper of SEPM (the Society for Sedimentary Geology) gave a very interesting presentation about trends in membership of geoscience societies. While many smaller societies are suffering from reductions in their memberships, larger societies are growing. Future, more in-depth analysis of these trends will help us to understand if this is because younger scientists are opting for just one membership (rather than the several societies joined by their senior colleagues) or if some subject areas are no longer as attractive as they once were. Your views are welcome!

**Kevin Murphy**  
Managing Editor, *Clays and Clay Minerals*

## STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to **Jacob Thacker** for winning a CMS Student Research Grant Award. Jacob is currently pursuing an MS degree in Earth sciences and geology at Montana State University with David Lageson and other advisors. His research is on fault zone behavior as influenced by factors such as mineralogy and permeability.

50<sup>TH</sup> 1963–2013  
*Anniversary*  
OF THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 6–10, 2013  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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