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MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

A Meritorious Service Award was made by The Clay Minerals Society to Dr. Richards A. Rowland at the 21st annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 2, 1984. The following presentation was made on behalf of the Society by W. D. Keller:

CITATION TO RICHARDS A. ROWLAND

W. D. Keller

I am privileged and honored to recount some of the special contributions made to our Society by one of our eminent, older ("relic") members. He is special and unique in that as a first in time sequence his record cannot be duplicated.

Those of us who date back, in senility, to the early 1950s know there was then no Clay Minerals Society. Instead, a Clay Minerals Committee, organized by A. F. Frederickson and Ralph E. Grim (the first Chairman) in 1951–1952 and originally sponsored and partly financed by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, scheduled annual meetings for us, who were an enthusiastic, loosely flocculated group of clay geologists, mineralogists, soils scientists, chemists, drilling-mudders, and friends of the phyllosilicates. Within ten years, however, in the 1960s, Jim Gilluly of the NRC said to us, "You guys look like you are a viable group that can make a go of it on your own; therefore, you no longer need our support."

The Chairman of the Clay Minerals Committee at that time was Richards A. ("Dick") Rowland. In an instant he had a tremendous responsibility dropped in his lap, or on his shoulders; he had either to organize a new Clay Minerals Society or see us deflocculate to a nonentity dispersion. Dick Rowland rose to the crisis and successfully organized The Clay Minerals Society. Not only did he contribute all of the personal work necessary, but I have heard from reliable sources, as the media say, that he also wangled gratuitous legal assistance from the legal staff of his employer to set up the Society correctly so that it met tax requirements of the Internal Revenue Service and other governmental bureaucracies. No school teacher such as I, whose only professional resources were graduate students and laboratory assistants, could have done that.

Dick thus was successively the father, midwife, obstetrician, and pediatrician of the Society and was appropriately elected the first president of the Society. Because no one can turn time inside out and generate a different, or replicate, first president, Dick was unique and special.

After serving as president, he later became Editor of our Journal, a job that my editor friends say just makes enemies. Our journal was then published by a commercial firm in England, which was a long way from Houston, and took a long time to revise page proof unless you had a Concorde, which the Society did not have. Dick "howled" and, with Jack Hayes, negotiated a printing arrangement for the Journal by Allen Press in the nearby Jayhawk State and the Society became its own publisher. Again, Dick thus rose to the occasion of need and opened the door to publication in the direction that Fred Mumpton has so successfully continued. Dick Rowland, therefore, is a special person to our Society, and we rejoice that the Society is now recognizing Dick with an appropriate meritorious service award.

Dick, will you and Jane please stand while I read the citation on this special award to you, and congratulate you:

The Clay Minerals Society

In recognition of your many contributions to the Society, including your dedicated efforts in conducting an orderly transition from the original Clay Minerals Committee to The Clay Minerals Society, your distinguished services as editor of *Clays and Clay Minerals*, and your continued enthusiastic support, The Clay Minerals Society presents to

Dr. Richards A. Rowland

on this 2nd day of October, 1984, a
Meritorious Service Award

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