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NEWS

SOURCE CLAY MINERALS PROJECT

William F. Moll, Jr.
Chairman

Scientists involved with a clay, even in the smallest sample, immediately face problems inherent in dealing with an enormously large number of exceedingly small crystals. These crystals frequently vary among themselves and often represent only a metastable compromise with their environment. The nature of the crystals can change radically in various parts of the same geologic deposit. Furthermore, the process of separation from the raw sample can alter the clay minerals to a significant degree. Thus, results from different laboratories on ostensibly the same clay mineral cannot always be compared because that sameness may be illusory.

Consequently, the Clay Minerals Society has established at the University of Missouri a Source Clay Minerals Repository, which will stock a metric ton each of several abundant natural clays and lesser quantities of more exotic clay minerals as such become available. The supply of each abundant mineral will be as homogenous as is possible within the constraints imposed by laboratory processing of a ton of material. The prime goal is to accumulate physical and chemical data on these samples. Initial characterization will be made in several laboratories and published in *Clays and Clay Minerals*. However, data generated by any investigator should be deposited in the repository. Thus over time, an extensive fund of information will emerge.

This project, by its nature, is concerned with development of information. It should not be considered competitive with any other clay mineral distribution service.

The samples have been selected at the deposit by qualified investigators. Because any beneficiation technique can cause changes in the clay minerals, treatment will be held to a bare minimum. It will involve only low temperature drying and crushing. As stated, homogenization will be as complete as practicable for such large samples.

The price for each sample is $10.00 per 500 g, post paid by surface mail. Air mail will be additional. The initial offering, now available, comprises:

1. Kaolin, high crystallinity, Georgia
2. Kaolin, low crystallinity, Georgia
3. Attapulgite, Georgia
4. Bentonite, Newcastle formation, Wyoming
5. Bentonite, white calcium, Texas
6. Montmorillonite/mica, randomly interstratified, synthetic
7. Nontronite*, Washington
8. Hectorite, California

*The nontronite, owing to its nature, is not homogenized.

This material can be obtained from:

Dr. W. D. Johns
Source Clay Minerals Program
Geology Department
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A. 65201.

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NOTICE OF 1973 CLAY MINERALS MEETING

THE Tenth meeting of the Clay Minerals Society and the 22nd Clay Minerals Conference will be held at the Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 7–11 October, 1973. Meeting Chairman is Dr. J. E. Gillott, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Calgary, Calgary 44, Alberta, Canada.

Program arrangements for the meeting are:

October 8	Symposium on Microstructure of Clays.
October 9	Field trip to points of geological interest in the Canadian Rockies.
October 10	General Sessions.
October 11	a.m.—General Sessions
	p.m.—Laboratory Tours.

Papers for the symposium and general sessions are invited. Deadlines for titles and abstracts are 1 May, 1973, and 1 June, 1973, respectively. They should be sent to Dr. E. Penner, Division of Building Research, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A OK 6.

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