PREFACE

The Clay Minerals Committee has operated under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council since 1952. The function of this Committee is to bring together from a wide variety of disciplines people interested in clays and clay mineralogy. Annual meetings have been held at which topics of interest are discussed, and field trips are organized in conjunction with the meetings to visit occurrences of important clays. The Proceedings of each of these meetings have been published. This volume is the Proceedings of the Conference held at Washington, D.C., October 20–23, 1958. Dr. Howard F. McMurdie was Chairman of the local Committee that organized and conducted the program and the stimulating field trip to northeastern Maryland and northern Delaware.

The First National Clay Conference was held in Berkeley, California, on July 21–25, 1952. The Proceedings of the Conference were published by the California Division of Mines. The Proceedings of the next four Conferences were published by the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. This organization has not only helped the Committee handle its business affairs but has also played the major role in seeing the papers through the arduous trail toward publication. They have also generously financed the publications. To the many people in this organization who have contributed so much, the Committee and all those who benefit from reading the Proceedings offer hearty thanks.

The Permagon Press is now publishing the Proceedings of the Conferences. The excellent volume containing the results of the Sixth Conference and now this volume insure the continuity and excellence of this important source of information to all people interested in clay mineralogy and technology. The Committee extends its gratitude to the Pergamon Press and to our distinguished editor Miss Ada Swineford who has "shepherded" the papers contained in this volume into their final form. The Kansas Geological Survey generously made available Dr. Swineford's time, and the facilities of its offices, for the editorial work.

W. D. KELLER, *Chairman*

A. F. FREDERICKSON, *Secretary*

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