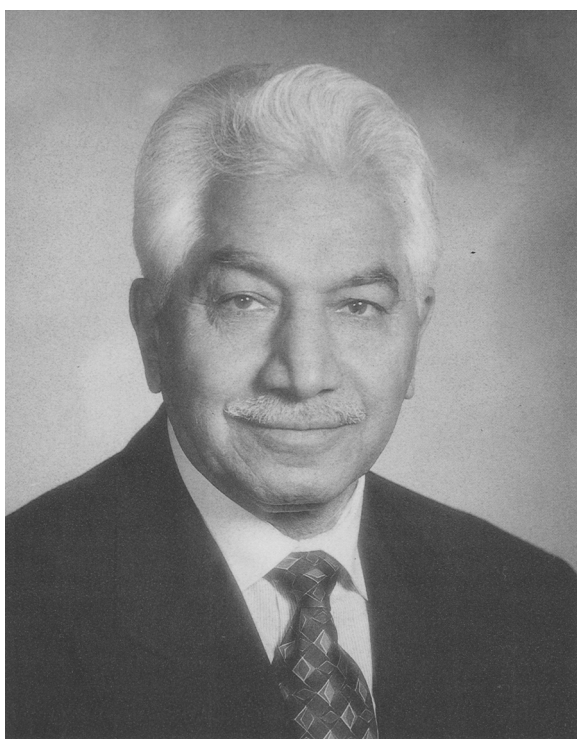


DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Distinguished Member Award of the Clay Minerals Society was presented to Dr. Brij L. Sawhney, Emeritus Soil Scientist, at the 35th annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society in Cleveland, Ohio on June 8, 1998. The following introduction was made on behalf of the recipient.

INTRODUCTION OF BRIJ L. SAWHNEY

JOE B. DIXON



Brij L. Sawhney has had a distinguished career of research in clay mineralogy and environmental chemistry of soils and related aquatic systems. He is a soil chemist with Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in chemistry from Panjab University in India. He earned the Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry and Soil Mineralogy from the University of Wisconsin in Madison under the direction of Dr. M.L. Jackson.

Dr. Sawhney developed a strong program in clay chemistry research at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven where he rose through the ranks as soil scientist and currently to emeritus status. He investigated the weathering transformation

of clays in soils, hydroxy-aluminum interlayering, interstratification, and the charge properties of layer silicates. His research on the selective adsorption of potassium and cesium by clays serves as an important reference for agronomists and environmental scientists. His findings on the behavior of radioactive cesium from nuclear reactions and the environmental and health concerns related to radioactive cesium have proven timely and important in the quest for a safe environment. Dr. Sawhney is an authority on the interactions of inorganic and organic pollutants with clays and soils and their transport to ground water. He has written numerous scientific journal articles and edited two books, one of them by the Clay Minerals Society, in environmental chemistry of clays and soils. Dr. Sawhney conducted research during sabbaticals in Canada and Australia and collaborated with research agencies and universities across the United States.

Dr. Sawhney has been extremely active in the Clay Minerals Society where he has chaired the major committees and served as president in 1990. He served as the liaison between the Clay Minerals Society and the Soil Science Society of America. His friendly disposition and vigorous leadership style served well to promote the growth and development of clay mineral programs in both societies.

In my view, one of the major contributions of Dr. Sawhney has been his versatility in adapting his career to the needs of the public in focusing his research and scientific publications on soil formation, ion selectivity, radioactive cesium, toxic heavy metals, and pesticides. These topics of importance to the public have emerged during the four decades of his career and he has investigated and published information on them in numerous scientific articles, several book chapters, and in his editing of two books. Also, his friends and colleagues have and still do enjoy the enthusiasm that Dr. Brij L. Sawhney brings to the Clay Minerals Society meetings. It is a privilege for me to present to you Brij L. Sawhney as a Distinguished Member of the Clay Minerals Society.