

# CLAY MINERALS BULLETIN

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No. 3

We are glad that, thanks to the co-operation of the Council of the parent Society, the Bulletin can now appear in printed form. The necessary arrangements for printing it have unfortunately resulted in a delay in the appearance of this number, which should have come out during 1948, and we apologize to our contributors whose reports have been held up.

The new form does not alter the character of the Bulletin, which is essentially a medium for the dissemination of news of research in progress, and will therefore, consist mainly of short and informal contributions. Most of the work mentioned here has been, or will be, published elsewhere in fuller form. All the papers which have so far appeared in the Bulletin, except two, have been read at our meetings, and these two were only kept out by lack of time. We would like to point out, however, that presentation at a meeting is not a necessary condition for appearance in the Bulletin, and if any of our members (or others) have contributions which they think would be suitable, we will be glad to consider them.

## *A new International Committee for Clay Studies.*

By the time this issue appears, the third Annual General Meeting (and the fourth full scientific meeting) arranged by the Group will probably have taken place at Leeds, and an account will be given there of the year's activities. These have included the successful series of meetings arranged in conjunction with the International Geological Congress. On that occasion the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Group took part in a discussion to consider the setting up of an international organization to aid clay mineral research workers, and we are glad to report that such an organization was constituted, with the following Executive Sub-committee to administer its activities:—

S. Henin (Versailles), Chairman.

M. Lepingle (Brussels), Secretary.

R. E. Grim

D. M. C. MacEwan } Members.

It was decided that up to two members from each country would be asked to join the International Committee, the name of which is to be *Comite International pour l'Etude des Argiles* (with the convenient abbreviation C.I.P.E.A.). The reason for limiting the membership is that the new organization is not meant to be a scientific group, on the lines of the Clay Minerals Group, but is to link together the various national organizations by aiding in the exchange of informa-

tion and samples. The membership of the Committee is not yet fixed: many names were put forward at the London meeting, and the Secretary is at present engaged in finding out how many of those nominated are willing to serve. The countries represented at the meeting, and which are therefore at present also the only ones represented on the Committee are Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and U.S.A. The British members of the Committee are Dr Brindley and Dr MacEwan, the Australian member is Dr Hosking.

When the Committee is complete, it will proceed to its first main task, of collecting information on work in progress, equipment available, etc., in different laboratories, with the aim of aiding workers in this field to get to know to whom they may most usefully apply for specific information. Special attention will be given to information on the availability of good samples of clay minerals. These are sometimes difficult to come by, and much time may be lost through not knowing, in the first place, who is the correct person to apply to. The question has been raised, of making an international collection of standard samples, but although the difficulties of financing and housing such a collection are at present too great, we hope that the measure proposed will be a useful alternative.

If any of our readers has ideas on other ways in which the international Committee could make itself useful, he is invited to write to the Secretary, or to another member of the Executive Sub-committee.

#### *International D. T. A. Committee.*

Another meeting was held at the time of the International Congress, of persons interested in the Differential Thermal Analysis technique, who decided to form an International Committee, for the purpose of enquiring into possible methods of standardization. Mr S. Henin is Chairman, Dr R. C. Mackenzie (Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen), Secretary. Standardization of technique is, of course, of particular importance in D.T.A. work, in order that results of different laboratories may be readily comparable. The first aim of the Committee is to gather information on methods at present in use—their advantages and disadvantages. All D.T.A. workers are invited to co-operate, and those who wish to do so should give their names and addresses to Dr Mackenzie, in order that they may be put on his mailing list.

#### *Swedish Society for Clay Research.*

As many of our readers will already have learnt from the columns of *Nature*, this Society was constituted at a meeting at Hoganas on Nov. 4th, last year. The members of the Committee are Dr G. Assarsson, Geological Survey, Stockholm, Chairman; Dr L. Silfverberg, Royal Swedish Geotechnical Institute, Stockholm, Hon. Secretary; E. Forslind, Swedish Cement and Concrete Research Institute, Stockholm; Dr Rolf Norin, Hoganas; and Dr Lambert Wiklander, Institute for Pedology, Ultuna, Uppsala.

Our Group does not at present have the same reciprocal arrangement with this Society as with the French *Groupe des Argiles*, but enquiries are being made to see if this can be done. Readers will recollect that our members are kept notified of the meetings of the French Group, which they are free to attend.

*Monograph on Clay Minerals.*

The report on this project, to be presented to the Annual General Meeting, is expected to show that most of the chapters are completed, but that a few are still in hand. The work will probably be printed during the course of this year, and will be more or less the same in style and format as the *Mineralogical Magazine*.

*Reprinting of early numbers of the Bulletin.*

Our readers will note that the pagination of this number does not start from 1. The reason is that it is hoped to reprint the first two numbers of the *Bulletin*, so that the complete set of numbers may be available in printed form. It will probably be necessary to sell these early numbers to members, in order to meet the cost of printing them. The price will not exceed 7/6, for the two numbers, and may be less if enough members apply for them. If you would like to have printed copies of the first two numbers, therefore, will you please fill up and post straight away the order form which will be found in this issue?

*Contents of this number.*

In this number, we conclude the report of the January, 1948 meeting, and a start is made with the report of the meetings held in August, 1948. Three of the papers given at those meetings—by Henin, Caillere and Jordan—have appeared in the *Mineralogical Magazine* this year, and will not therefore be summarized in detail here. We have no more summaries in hand from that series of meetings: if any other speakers would like their contributions to appear in the *Bulletin*, they are asked to send summaries of the usual length (3-6 quarto pages, double spacing) as soon as possible.

*“Notes and News.”*

Dr. D. M. C. MacEwan, who is undertaking the editing of the *Bulletin*, is considering the possibility of starting a section of “*Notes and News*.” This would contain such items as: information on special apparatus available for disposal, private translations of foreign works which might be of interest to our members, special calibration graphs which could be reproduced, etc. Such a service of information might save a good deal of duplication of effort. The column might also contain personal items, such as notification of changes of address among members. Anyone who has any information which he thinks might be suitable for such a section is invited to write to Dr. MacEwan.

D. M. C. M.