REVIEW

CLAY MINERALS By Ernö Nemeez, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary, English Translation by B. Balkay, 1981, pp, 547, Hardbound Jacket, Price: Unlisted.

The study of clays as mineral assemblages has, from a sedate beginning, grown in a spectacular fashion for the past two decades made possible with the advent of complex instrumental analyses; resulting in new approaches concerning Earth dynamics. It is also currently held that clay minerals have a deep influence on geonomic evolution in plate tectonics. These minerals have now been recognised as a group of substances so special to the Earth and perhaps even to the entire Solar System. Although clay researches are taking place at a breathtaking pace, comprehensive books on this important field are woefully small in number. In this sense the new Monograph under review responds to an urgent need.

The book with a thoughtful foreword by Academecian Kardoss discusses three major topics. Part-I elaborates the crystal structure and chemical constitution of clay minerals in the context of their historical evolution and also includes the recent developments such as atomic coordinates and electron density distribution, treated in a manner so as to invest the reader with a freedom to develop individual assessment, not necessarily concurrent with that of the author. Part-II deals with both the classical and modern techniques of clay mineral identification but the author however, has refrained from showing personal preference regarding their merits. While the illustrations and x-ray identification charts on monomineralics and mixed.layers are highly useful for the clay investigators, the same thing cannot be mentioned of electron micrographs, where the earlier publications of Grim and Bates figure superior. Inclusion of scanning electron micrographs would have enhanced the value of this book. Natural formation of clay minerals, their occurrence, synthesis and role in various geological interactions have been described in the last section. New data incorporated from many European localities will interest the reader. Exhaustive bibliography after each chapter along with author and subject index at the end assists well as reference material.

A lacuna that can be noticed is that the clay minerals with their myriad functional properties and technological utility forming a fascinating study, have been totally omitted. But the author's cue of a companian volume on the practical uses of clay minerals may serve as a consolatory factor.

On the whole, 'Clay Minerals' is an elegantly produced book presenting many new aspects and experimental suggestions that bears limpid testimony to the painstaking research skill and scholarship of Professor Nemeez. The English rendering of Dr. Balkay from the Hungarian version is lucid enough to merit the appreciation of the international scientific community. The book is a commendable effort and compells the attention of a new generation of research workers and teachers in Earth Sciences and will be a worthy addition to book banks.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETROLEUM GEOLOGY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN NORTH SEA INCLUDING THE ONSHORE AREAS

International Conference, The Hague, the Netherlands, November 24-26, 1982

November 24-26, 1982; Petroleum Geology of the southeastern North Sea including the onshore areas, International Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Information: c/o Netherlands Congress Centre
P.O. Box 82000
2508 EA The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel. (0) 70-51.28.51 Telex 31700 necon nl

International Workshop on

ROLE OF GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION INSTITUTES IN NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

October, 1982

The centre of Exploration Geophysics, Osmania University in cooperation with the Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID) is organising a workshop on 'Role of Geoscience Education Institutes in Natural Resources Deveropment'.

The Objectives of the Workshop are: 1. To provide a forum for the exchange of views and experiences between university, industry and Government aimed at improving geosciences teaching programmes and the use of available geoscience manpower, services and facilities in universities in the region. 2. To identify clearly the problem areas and 3. To design realistic ways of improving the present situation and to plan practical follow-up activities.

For further information please contact:

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TENTH INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY

December 21-23, 1982

The Tenth Indian Colloquium on Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy is scheduled to be held from 21-23 December, 1982 at Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science, Pune.

Organisers have invited contributions on Systematics, Evolutionary trends, Palaeoecology, Palaeobiogeography, Biozonation, etc. of different Microfaunal and Microfloral groups.

For further details contact:

Dr. R. M. Badve
Convener
Tenth Indian Colloquium on
Micropaleontology and Stratigraphy,
M. A. C. S. Research Institute, Pune 411 004.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WATER-ROCK INTERACTION

The fourth international symposium on water-rock interaction will be held at Misasa, Japan from August 29 to September 8, 1983. The topics for discussion are (1) Active geothermal systems, (2) Application of water-rock interaction to mineral resources, (3) Experimental and theoretical studies, (4) Environmental preservation and natural disaster prediction, (5) Diagenetic processes, (6) Ocean-floor alteration/metamorphism, (7) Stable isotopes.

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