

## PREFACE

This volume of *Clays and Clay Minerals* reports the Proceedings of the Eighth Conference of the Clay Minerals Committee of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. The conference was held on October 11–14, 1959, at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

The clay conferences provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of research by individuals and of problems related to clays and clay minerals in many diverse disciplines, and thereby discharge a major responsibility of the Clay Minerals Committee.

The conferences have been held at universities and other educational and scientific institutions which act as hosts. This Eighth Conference, invited by the University of Oklahoma, was held under the local chairmanship of Charles G. Dodd, Professor of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Oklahoma, assisted by Drs. William E. Ham, Associate Director, and C. C. Branson, Director, the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The members of the Oklahoma Geological Survey conducted a field trip to the Wichita Mountains on October 11.

In addition to the field trip, the program at this meeting consisted of symposia on "Clay–Water Systems" and "Clay Mineral–Geochemical Prospecting," and papers of general interest. A business meeting and banquet are regularly held in conjunction with scientific sessions.

The national and local committees express their appreciation and thanks to the eighteen companies that aided financially in sponsoring this conference and work.

We are grateful to the State Geological Survey of Kansas which has generously provided office facilities, and for the time which Dr. Ada Swineford, our distinguished Editor, made available to prepare this volume for the press. Dr. Swineford and assistant editors are to be congratulated for their work and insistence on high quality of papers and presentation. Quality has been the tradition of Clay Conference Proceedings. The Pergamon Press is continuing to publish the Proceedings in its excellent series of Earth Science Monographs, for which Dr. Earl Ingerson serves as Editor-in-Chief.

The 1960 Conference of the Clay Minerals Committee is to be held October 5–8 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

W. D. KELLER, *Chairman*

M. L. JACKSON, *Secretary*

Clay Minerals Committee, National  
Academy of Sciences—National  
Research Council.

May 9, 1960

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