

BOOK REVIEW

Kaolin Deposits of the GDR in the Northern Region of the Bohemian Massif, edited by Manfred Störr, Sektion Geologische Wissenschaften, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald, Greifswald, GDR (East Germany), 1975, 243 pp.

Attention of clay scientists in western countries should be called to the excellent volume cited in the title above. This photo-copy book is in good readable English, and also includes some terminology common in European. It is replete with local maps, cross sections, and transmission electron micrographs. "It was composed with a view to providing a basis for discussion for the kaolin symposium to be held in Dresden, September, 1975." (editor Störr). Likewise, it served as a valuable guide to the kaolin deposits near Dresden visited on 4 days of field trips.

A preface and 12 papers by 12 contributors (though not 1:1 authorship) were edited by Prof. Störr, Head of the Geology Section of the E-M-A Universität Greifswald, and sponsor of the meeting. The wide scope and praiseworthy thoroughness of this volume is demonstrated by the topics covered.

The first 4 chapters, all written by Störr, efficiently trace and summarize the general geology and geomorphology (very pertinent to the "crust" of kaolinization) of this area of the GDR; they include the history of theories of origin of its kaolin, the history of utilization of its kaolin from 1707 to the present, the important abandoned and operating clay pits, and the history of the scientific investigations of kaolin—which quote names, dates, scientific views, and a full list of references.

The "weathering crusts", developed in Ordovician, Carboniferous, Triassic, but most profoundly in Cretaceous-Eocene times, are reviewed with maps and charts of paleogeography, polar wandering, tectonism, climate, plant growth and coal formation, and mineral analyses. The reader becomes aware of traditional German thoroughness. The fourth of Störr's chapters treats in detail a survey of the kaolin deposits of the Upper Cretaceous-Tertiary weathering crust in the GDR. Störr is to be highly compli-

mented for these informative chapters. He is co-author of five additional papers.

Individual kaolin deposits are authoritatively treated in detail by competent writers in the remaining 8 chapters. These likewise contain maps, cross-sections, and analyses. They treat residual kaolins, below-unconformity kaolin, sedimentary kaolin, controversial hydrothermal-weathered kaolin, kaolin that we call "ball clay", and others. A nickel hydrosilicate deposit and weathering on "serpentine, gabbro, and acid magmatic rocks" in the Callenberg area is the subject of Chap. 10. Famous localities for kaolin used in well-known white-ware manufacture, for example, the renowned Meissen ware, are discussed—such as, Seilitz, Caminaw, Kemmlitz, historic Aue, and others. The authors present a broad survey of kaolin geology and materials exemplified by deposits from this region.

One sentence in the historical survey takes cognizance of the political change in the GDR (German Democratic Republic), "After the liberation from Hitler fascism, all the kaolinworks became nationalized as a result of a people's poll in 1948" (p. 10). In the American tradition of yielding "equal time" to report different points of view in politics, a verbatim comment of a *not-American* participant at the meeting was, "the GDR is neither a democracy nor a republic."

Störr's book is to be highly complimented not only for its efficient content of technical clay material, but it is exemplary of what a top-notch treatment for a symposium and field guide can be. All libraries for clay mineralogy, geology, and weathering should have this book. Prof. Haydn Murray and this reviewer were USA participants at Dresden.

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