

## REVIEW

CLAY MINERALS By Ernő 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 Academician 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 companion 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 compels 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

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