

The Clay Minerals Society

www.clays.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Douglas K. McCarty

In this issue, I would like to mention one of the most significant and important functions of the Clay Minerals Society (CMS): the CMS Source Clays Repository, which is currently located at Purdue University (Indiana, USA) (http://www.clays.org/sourceclays_history.html). In their preface to the *Clays and Clay Minerals* 2001 special issue entitled "Baseline Studies of The Clay Minerals Society Source Clays", Costanzo and Guggenheim (2001) state, "The Source Clays Program of The Clay Minerals Society was initiated

in 1972 to distribute a set of reference clays, so that distributed clays could be identical for all recipients. Because most clays do not consist of a single phase, the immediate objective was not to produce a pure product consisting of one clay mineral, but to provide a uniform product. These materials were collected and processed carefully, and sufficient amounts were collected so that material was available for researchers for many years."

A quick Google Scholar search of 'Source Clays' revealed the various analytical reports of the Baseline Studies, including diffraction, spectroscopic, thermal, elemental and surface area data, which were cited 1,937 times in other papers. The real number is probably much larger. Indeed, the Source Clays SWy, SAz, STx, KGa-1 and KGa-2 are household names to many researchers. A quick Web of Science search showed 128 citations for KGa, 257 for SWy, and 120 for SAz Source Clays (http://www.clays.org/sourceclays_source_and_special.html).

The repository is important to the CMS and the clay science research community. The Society's Source Clays Repository offers two types of materials: the source clays themselves, and what are referred to as 'special clays'. As stated on the CMS website, the special clays are rare but of great theoretical interest. In 2016, a total of 1,035 units of clay were sold. Of these, 455 units were of source clays, and 573 units of special clays. In 2016, the repository started selling Reynolds Cup quantitative phase analysis reference samples (post-contest), and seven units of were sold in 2016 (<http://www.clays.org/Reynolds.html>).

Unfortunately, an infinite supply of all the source clays was not obtained. Thus, currently, some source clays have been exhausted and others are in very short supply. The society has a standing committee for its source clays which is actively working on replenishing the clays. Thus, the Clay Minerals Society continues to serve the larger clay-science community in providing reference and education materials, and reference clay minerals for a wide range of applications.

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REFERENCE

Costanzo PA, Guggenheim S (2001) Baseline studies of the Clay Minerals Society Source Clays: preface. *Clays and Clay Minerals* 49: 371

CMS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2018!

IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Pruett (1963 to 2017)

The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) sadly lost one of its highly esteemed members, Dr. Robert "Bob" James Pruett. He passed away 25 July 2017 in Milledgeville (Georgia, USA). Bob received his BS degree at the University of Wisconsin (USA), and his MS and PhD degrees at Indiana University (USA), where he studied under the pioneering clay scientist Professor Haydn H. Murray.

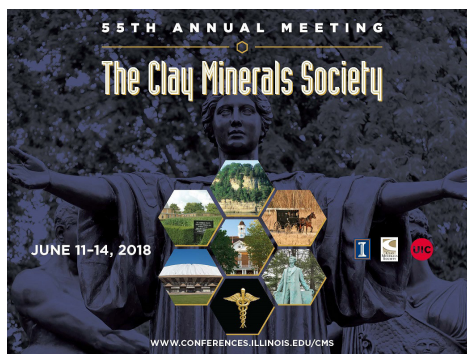
Bob was a member of five professional societies, but CMS was special to him as evidenced by his contributions. He served on many of its committees and on the CMS Council. At the time of his death, he was President-elect. He was also very active in the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME).

Bob had worked for IMERYS Oilfield Solutions as Technical Director since March 2013. Prior to that, he had worked for IMERYS' Pigments for Paper and Packaging Group. He served as the Minerals Technology Director for their pilot plant, analytical lab, microbiology lab, and process development department (Sandersville, Georgia). Bob joined the Georgia Kaolin Company (GK) research department in 1990 and relocated from New Jersey to Georgia in 1991 when ECC International (ECCI) acquired GK. Bob became leader of the Minerals Technology Department in 1996 and continued in that role after IMERYS purchased ECCI in 1999.

Bob was an internationally recognized and innovative expert in many industrial mineral processes: he conceived the development of hyper-play clay products and their scaling up through commercial production. Bob played a key role in developing his company's hydrous product portfolio, which relied on the ability to measure shape factors for kaolin products and process streams, a field where Bob was also an internationally recognized expert. All of his professional and scientific achievements could not overshadow his humble, kind, and generous character, to which all who knew and worked with him have testified.

Clay science has lost a great scientist, society member, friend, and colleague, who will be fondly remembered for many years.

Douglas K. McCarty, President 2017–2018
The Clay Minerals Society



The 55th Annual Meeting of the Clay Minerals Society will be held 11–14 June 2018 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA). The theme of the meeting is New Visions in Clay Science. The meeting will include thematic sessions on a variety of relevant topics and a workshop on medicinal applications of clay minerals. Visit www.conferences.illinois.edu/cms for more details.

Dr. Yuji Arai, Organizing Committee Chair