

## PREFACE

The Fifth National Conference on Clays and Clays Minerals, under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, was held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. This Conference was designed to bring together scientists of many disciplines interested in or actively working in various fields dealing with clays and clay mineralogy. Some of the reports of research in these fields are published as individual papers in this volume.

The responsibility of organizing a program and all of its attendant details along with problems of handling a field trip were ably completed by a local committee under the chairmanship of Dr. W. F. Bradley. To all of these people, a debt of appreciation is owed. Their work in arranging the field trip to visit the type locality of the famous Fithian illite was an outstanding feature of the Conference.

The laborious job of bringing together the manuscripts of the papers and editing them has been done with distinction by Miss Ada Swineford. The generosity of the State Geological Survey of Kansas for permitting her to undertake this difficult job and assisting her with many details is sincerely appreciated.

Many difficulties have attended the publication of these Proceedings. To (Mrs.) Josephine A. Williams, Director of Publications for the Academy—Research Council, is owed a debt of thanks for assisting in this part of the work. It was only through the generous financial assistance of the National Science Foundation that this volume was finally published.

To the above mentioned people and many others who generously assisted in seeing this job to completion, a deep debt of gratitude is acknowledged.

A. F. FREDERICKSON, *Secretary*

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

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