

## BOOK REVIEW

**Clay Microstructure**, by Richard H. Bennett and Mathew H. Hulbert. International Human Resources Development Corporation, Boston/Houston/London, 1986 (IHRDC, Publishers, 137 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116). 161 pages, hardbound, \$39.00. (ISBN 0-88746-065-8).

The book presents a rather exhaustive review of research on clay fabric, a field to which the authors have significantly contributed. Not only are important research advances emphasized, "significant dead ends" are also reviewed. The authors believe that this approach "will help readers to avoid pitfalls and assist them in refining the questions that arise continually during practical and theoretical research in clay microstructure." The authors anticipate that "this approach will aid readers to gain more appreciation for

the intrinsic relations between fundamental properties of fine-grained mineral sediments and the fabric and physico-chemistry." Unfortunately, the section on physico-chemistry, particularly on the colloid chemical aspects of clay particle interaction is rather sketchy and not clearly written, but the presentation of the historic development and current state of the art in fabric research is very useful to the practitioner of fabric analysis, i.e., ceramicists, geotechnical engineers, agronomists, and environmental specialists. Due attention is paid to the relative merits of various techniques of sample preparation for X-ray diffraction and electron microscopical studies, which is indeed a key problem in fabric study in the laboratory.

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