

REPORT

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL KAOLIN SYMPOSIUM

Dresden, German Democratic Republic, 14–20 September, 1975

Professor Manfred Störr of the Department of Geological Sciences at Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University in Greifswald organized a kaolin symposium with three days of formal papers and four days of field trips. Fifty invited participants attended the symposium including Professors Walter Keller and Haydn Murray from U.S.A. Other attendees came from England, West Germany, France, Denmark, Austria, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, East Germany, Poland and Russia. Twenty nine papers were presented at the symposium and these will be published early this year (1976) by the university under the editorship of Professor Störr. The majority of the papers described the age and genesis of kaolins in selected areas of the world. Prof. Keller presented a paper entitled "Scanning Electron Microscopical Examination of Kaolins of Diverse Origins" and Prof. Murray gave a paper on "Alteration of a Granite to Kaolin-Mineralogy and Geochemistry". The published volume will be a valuable addition to the literature on the age and genesis of kaolins. The field trips included visits to kaolin mines at Caminau, Seilitz, Ockrilla, Gröppendorf, Kemmlitz and Gluckauf; a

ball clay mine at Wetro; lignite mines and associated clays at Berzdorf and Espenhain; and a nickel hydrosilicate mine at Callenburg. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the famous Meissen China Factory which produces quality china and artware objects as it has since 1710 when Johann Böttger produced the first white porcelain. Several historical points of interest were visited during the trip in Bautzen, Leipzig, Meissen, Karl Marx-Stadt, Dresden and Freiburg. The field trips were exceptionally well organized and at every stop of geologic interest a geologic map, a cross-section, X-ray diffraction patterns, and electron micrographs were tacked on a portable display board and Prof. Störr explained the geology and mineralogy in English and German. Excellent discussions of the relationship between parent rock type and the resultant weathering products took place at several locations. Prof. Keller has reviewed the book edited by Prof. Störr (page 105 this issue) which was used on the field trips. Prof. Störr and his staff are to be commended for organizing this symposium.

HAYDN H. MURRAY