

NOTICES

NATIONAL SYNTHETICS COLLECTION

The Division of Mineralogy of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., announces the formation of a reference collection of synthetic crystals.

One of the most important jobs of a museum is preservation of materials for future generations; at the Smithsonian, this aim is supplemented by the documentation of historically significant events, discoveries, and inventions. The study of materials synthesis and crystal growth has mushroomed in recent years into a major worldwide industry. Yet nowhere is a systematic record or collection being maintained that comprises a cross section of the research and development efforts in the materials industry. Such a collection would have immeasurable value to future research scientists, engineers, science historians, and students of crystal growth processes. Many of the crystals grown in laboratories today are analogs of natural minerals, thus offering unique study material for the mineralogist.

Our goal is to acquire for the Smithsonian representative samples of all inorganic synthetic materials, produced both in laboratories and in industrial plants, by accident or by design. Included in this collection would be: crystals grown commercially for materials applications; crystals formed accidentally in laboratory experiments; crystals formed accidentally in commercial production runs; experimental materials produced in laboratory studies.

All growth techniques (solution, flux, vapor, gel, melt, VLS, zone, etc.) and all types of inorganic materials (metals, ceramics, chemical compounds such as used as reagents, minerals) should be represented. Even the "accidents" of crystal growth, normally unwanted by research and production people, offer opportunities to study morphologies of rapidly-grown crystals. The processes by which these form resemble in many ways those of natural environments, and are of great interest to earth scientists.

It is hoped that materials scientists will recognize the value of the proposed National Synthetics Collection, and will put aside all crystalline materials that are no longer needed. A brief description of available material should be sent to: Dr. Joel E. Arem, Crystallographer, Dept. of Mineral Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560. All donations to the collection will be formally acknowledged.

1972 INTERNATIONAL CLAY CONFERENCE

The 1972 International Clay Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain from the 25th to the 30th of June, 1972. The Conference is being organized by the Spanish Clay Society (S.E.A.), under the auspices of the Association Internationale por l'Etude des Argiles (A.I.P.E.A.).

The main purpose of the Conference is to promote international cooperation in the study of clays through scientific sessions, publications, and field trips.

All correspondence related to the Conference should be sent to:

1972 International Clay Conference, General Secretary, Departamento de Cristalografía y Mineralogía, Facultad de Ciencias, Sección de Geología, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid-3, Spain.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

The ninth Congress of the International Union of Crystallography will be held in Kyoto, Japan, **26 August through 7 September, 1972**. The scientific sessions will be organized around selected areas of research of current interest ("Frontier Topics"). Sessions of particular interest to mineralogists will include: Determination of accurate atomic parameters and/or of electron density distributions; structure relationships in inorganic, mineral and intermetallic crystals; new concepts of polytypism, polymorphism, and twinning; new aspects of phase transitions; and mixed crystals and solid solutions. Should sufficient interest develop in mineralogical topics among participants, facilities will be available at the Congress for organization of ad-hoc sessions. General information and registration forms are obtained from: Organizing Committee Crystallography, Science Council of Japan, 22-34, Roppongi 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106 Japan. Abstracts from U.S. participants should be submitted to: Prof. G. A. Jeffrey, Department of Crystallography, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.