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CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS is the official publication of **THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY**. From 1952 through 1967 the publication took the form of an annual Proceedings Volume composed mainly of the papers presented at the annual Clay Minerals Conferences. In 1968 the publication was expanded to a bi-monthly JOURNAL that is now published by the SOCIETY. The JOURNAL undertakes to publish all articles of interest to the international community of clay scientists, and manuscripts are welcome from all countries.

CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS presents latest advances in research and technology concerning clays and other fine-grained minerals. Like its parent Society, the JOURNAL strives to promote the advancement of knowledge in many areas of clay science and technology, and it is therefore of value in mineralogy, crystallography, geology, geochemistry, sedimentology, soil science, agronomy, physical chemistry, colloid chemistry, ceramics, petroleum engineering, foundry engineering, soil mechanics, and other disciplines concerned with fine-grained mineral materials. Despite their different backgrounds and special interests, clay scientists and technologists have much in common, as their problems involve the structure, properties, origin, occurrence, and applications of the same minerals. **CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS** exists to disseminate to its worldwide readership the most recent developments in all of these aspects of clay materials.

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Cover design by John C. Burns (www.burnsdesignandstudio.com). CMS logo design by Timothy G. Phillips. Inset figure: Powder XRD patterns of the synthesized samples (NT25, NT19, NT18, NT7, NT6, NT5, NT4, NT3, NT2, NT1, NT0, NT24, NT23, NT22, NT21, and NT20). The ¹⁴⁷Fe(III) content (x) of the synthesized samples [Si_{4-x}Fe(III)_xFe(II)₂O₁₀(OH)₂Na], increases from the bottom to the top. See "Influence of aqueous Si and Fe speciation on tetrahedral (FeII) substitutions in nontronites: a clay-synthesis approach" by Baron *et al.*, this issue.