Scan Electron Micrographs of Kaolins Collected from Diverse Environments of Origin—II

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Abstract: Scan electron micrographs (SEM) show the textures of ball clay, plastic refractory clay, flint clay, and of kaolins from Cornwall, U.K., and Brittany, France. The texture of ball clay is a swirl and ragged-flake pattern. Plastic refractory clay shows a transition in texture from ball clay to plastic, semi-plastic, to semi-flint, and flint-clay. Flint-clay texture exhibits a matrix of tiny, compactly interlocked clay grains in which may be interspersed small, tight books and sheaves of kaolinite. The plastic to flint clays are interpreted to be sequential components of the flint-clay facies. In one sense they represent elements in clay diagenesis.

Kaolins from the Cornwall district, U.K., and Brittany, France, show more similarity than dissimilarity in texture. Evidence from texture suggests that while hydrothermal action at Cornwall initiated alteration of the granite, the last significant process of kaolinization there was weathering.

Clays and Clay Minerals; June 1976 v. 24; no. 3; p. 114-117; DOI: <u>10.1346/CCMN.1976.0240302</u> © 1976, The Clay Minerals Society Clay Minerals Society (<u>www.clays.org</u>)