

Dr Christopher Jeans is a scientist of extraordinary merit in the systematic investigation of clay minerals in the onshore and offshore strata of the British Isles. Not only has he studied clay minerals in thousands of samples from Cretaceous, Jurassic, and Permo-Triassic sediments, but for several decades he has been an integral part of a team of scientists determining clay minerals in Cainozoic, Mesozoic and Palaeozoic sedimentary rocks of this part of Europe. Between 1981 and 1998 with his assistant Mrs Dee Long and with help from the oil industry, he organised six international conferences on clay mineral diagenesis. The subsequent papers were published by the Mineralogical Society (UK) special issues of the journal *Clay Minerals* (in the volumes 17, 19, 21, 24, 29 and 35). Another special issue of the journal *Clay Minerals* was published in 2006 (in volume 41) which described and discussed the extensive stratigraphical clay mineral data from the British Isles accumulated since the pioneering research of Dr Robert Perrin (1971). This compilation by Christopher Jeans and Richard Merriman may provide for industry and British geology a new generation of thematic maps (argillological maps) based on stratigraphical variation in clay mineralogy. We also highly appreciate Christopher's thorough and inspirational critical review of two modern books, *Clays* and *Handbook of Clay Science*, edited by renowned publishing houses, Springer and Elsevier, which he shared with us in his lecture as one of the invited presenters to the 18th Clay Conference.