

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society was made to Professor Philip F. Low at the 29th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 2, 1992. The following introduction was made on behalf of the recipient.

INTRODUCTION OF PHILIP F. LOW

JOSEPH W. STUCKI

Over the past 43 years, Philip F. Low has distinguished himself as a Professor of Soil Chemistry at Purdue University. Born at Carmangay, Alberta, Canada, he received a B.S. degree in Soils from Brigham Young University in 1943. Immediately upon completing his degree, he entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in the weather forecasting service. While in the Army he had the opportunity to obtain advanced training in meteorology at the University of New Mexico and the California Institute of Technology, which qualified him for an M.S. degree from Cal Tech in meteorology in 1944. Upon his discharge from the service, he entered Iowa State University and received a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry in 1949. He spent part of that year working as a soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, then joined the faculty at Purdue University as Assistant Professor of Agronomy. He advanced quickly through the ranks to Professor by 1955, and built a reputation as an innovative experimentalist and inspired theoretician. One of his greatest strengths has been his ability to communicate difficult concepts in ways that are understandable to his audience, whatever their background. He has published over 120 scientific articles on a variety of topics, but, of course, he is best known for his landmark studies of the properties and behavior of water near smectite surfaces.

In more recent years, with sponsorship by the Academy of Sciences of China and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, he visited China numerous times, teaching and building bridges of understanding. He was named Honorary Professor at Zhejiang Agricultural University in Hangzhou.

Dr. Low has received many other awards and honors throughout his career. Purdue University bestowed upon him its prestigious Herbert Newby McCoy Award in Science and the annual Research Award from Sigma Xi. The Soil Science Society of America, of which he served as president during 1972-73, awarded him the Soil Science Research and the Bouyoucos Distinguished Career Awards. He is a fellow of both the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America and currently serves on the Council



of the Clay Minerals Society. In April of this year, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

His accomplishments on the personal side of his life are equally impressive. He and his wife, Mayda, have been married for 50 years and raised six bright children who are now living productive lives of their own.

He has served in positions of honor and trust in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, of which he has been a life-long member. He served for more than 20 years as president of the Indianapolis Stake or District of the Church, during which time he had direct

ecclesiastical responsibility for the spiritual and temporal welfare of several thousand members of the church in central Indiana. Later, he served for 6 years as regional representative, in which he was an advisor and trainer of stake presidents through regions of Indiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.

He has succeeded in living a remarkably balanced life, giving due attention to work, family, and church, without neglecting any, and indeed, excelling in all. His

life has been truly exemplary in every regard. I respect him as a scientist, as a human being, and as a friend. The success that Dr. Low has enjoyed could have caused a lesser person to become prideful and arrogant. But he has always been warm and friendly, with his door open to any who may pass by. Mr. President, I am honored to present Philip F. Low as Distinguished Member of the Clay Minerals Society.