

Note

MISLEADING NOMENCLATURE

A book entitled "Thermal Analysis of Minerals" by D. N. Todor, translated from the Romanian by S. Marcus (Abacus Press, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, UK) has recently been brought to the notice of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Confederation for Thermal Analysis (ICTA). The first chapter of this book carries a section on nomenclature attributed to ICTA but little related to the recommendations of that body [1–3].

The original Romanian text [4] contains no section on nomenclature and that incorporated in the English book is an English version of an extract from Romanian article published elsewhere by Dr. Todor [5]. This appears, on the whole, to be an accurate translation into Romanian of recommendations in the First Report [1], but the Table in that Report has been replaced by one taken from a shortened French version [6]; although this is correctly rendered into Romanian, it is labelled as having been approved at the Third International Conference on Thermal Analysis in 1971.

The translation of the Romanian text on nomenclature [5] into English is, however, far from accurate and this leads to many important divergences between statements in the book and the original definitive English text – as the following examples illustrate:

(a) On p. 15 of the book, *thermal analysis* is defined as:

"This is a general notion covering a group of mutually related instrumental techniques for measuring the parameters of any physical property or chemical stability depending on temperature",

compared with the original [1]:

"A general term covering a group of techniques whereby the dependence of the parameters of any physical property of a substance on temperature is measured".

(b) In the abbreviated Table on p. 17, the original "Evolved gas analysis (EGA)" has been rendered as "Differential gas analysis (DGA)".

(c) On p. 37 the term "specimen holder" [2] has become "groove for test samples" – a somewhat meaningless jumble of words used throughout the book.

The Nomenclature Committee of ICTA wish it to be on record that they strongly deprecate the appearance of such inaccurate material – issued apparently with

their imprimatur. To avoid serious errors in nomenclature they urge that when a definitive document is available in any language only that should be quoted and when no such document exists only a direct translation from the original should be employed. On no occasion whatsoever should a translation of a translation of the original be used.

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