

Letter from the Editor

Ernest T. Selig

This issue begins the third year of the *Geotechnical Testing Journal*. A sustained flow of contributions in the form of papers, technical notes, and suggested test methods has permitted the continuation of issues at the intended quarterly intervals. The support shown by the renewal of subscriptions is especially encouraging.

The date of distribution of each issue unfortunately has lagged the scheduled date by about six months. This is a result of a late start at the beginning of the first year, which we have not yet been able to adjust. One of our goals this year is to get the Journal on schedule. Plans are already under way to accomplish this goal by shortening the time between issues. Your patience in this matter is appreciated.

Another goal this year is to increase the contributions to the Journal by the subcommittees of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock. Such use of the Journal should serve as a stimulus to the task of developing test methods and standards.

Finally, we especially want to make significant progress in attracting testing tips, papers and technical notes on "how-to-do-it" ideas. We believe that a vast untapped reservoir of practical ideas exists among practitioners that would be of great value to the profession, if they could be shared through the Journal.

Consider, for example, the many problems in the equipment and methods for removing undisturbed samples of soil from thin-walled tubes. In one instance, it was found that the thin-bladed wheel of the tubing cutter being used to cut through the steel tube was breaking after a few cuts. Apparently, the solid rollers of the cutter, tending to close the cut being made by the blade, were embrittling the steel by cold working. The solution was to machine a shallow groove around the middle of each roller. A small detail, indeed, but one of considerable importance. Another example is given in the Testing Forum section of this issue.

Other contributions might concern calibration methods and devices, hardware and software to accelerate data reduction, or unusual apparatus that has been fabricated to perform special tests. By sharing the solutions to even small problems, the quality of testing can be improved on a wide scale.

We hope that everyone will join in the task of making this Journal a continuing unique benefit to the geotechnical testing profession.

Ernest T. Selig
Technical Editor