



Ernest T. Selig

Letter from the Editor

As we begin the second year of publication of the *Geotechnical Testing Journal* with this fifth issue, I would like to take this opportunity to review our progress and discuss plans for future issues.

The editorial scope of this Journal emphasizes testing relating to the determination of properties and behavior of soil and rock for engineering purposes. Specific topics of interest include:

- (1) new testing equipment, apparatus, and procedures for both field and laboratory applications;
- (2) evaluation of existing ASTM standards and recommendations for new standards for apparatus or test procedures;
- (3) test results that give insights into test procedures, techniques, and material behavior; and
- (4) topics related to soil and rock, such as highway materials testing, aggregate properties or pavement performance measurement, and geophysical exploration.

The categories of material to be considered for the Journal include the following:

- (1) technical papers providing comprehensive treatment of relevant topics;
- (2) technical notes that are less comprehensive than papers, and thus should be much shorter;
- (3) recommended test procedures and practices, including those that are being developed by subcommittees for possible adoption as ASTM standards;
- (4) discussions of journal papers, Special Technical Publications of Committee D-18, and related ASTM Standards. Authors' responses will also be sought and published;
- (5) testing tips contributed as letters to the editor, and published questions submitted by readers and followed by published responses from other readers or selected experts;
- (6) review of books and published reports concerning testing;
- (7) reports on activities of Committee D-18 and its subcommittees; and

(8) notices of meetings and conferences related to the scope of D-18 and brief reports on these activities

The first five issues provide examples of contributions in most of these categories. The rate of submission of papers and technical notes has shown a continued growth. During the second year, we would like to initiate or increase contributions to items covering recommended test procedures and practices, discussions, and testing tips.

Efforts are already underway through the D-18 subcommittees to publish new or revised test methods for evaluation by the profession; this is seen as an important step in the standards development process. We would be interested in similar contributions from other groups or individuals around the world. We hope that comments on these published methods will be submitted as discussions by the readers. Furthermore, we know that problems exist with present test standards that need attention; we solicit your comments in the form of discussion for publication.

A wealth of knowledge exists among the soil and rock testing practitioners about test techniques and apparatus features that has not been widely shared. We hope that you will tell us about these ideas by submitting testing tips or technical notes. We hope to begin a dialog that will share these good ideas.

Much of the desired knowledge is in the hands of people who seldom or never become involved with publishing their work. Perhaps the ideas seem too simple or obvious, but perhaps, too, they may be helpful to someone else who has not discovered the same approach. One way for you to start this process is to think of the best half dozen testing ideas that you see. Then describe one or more of these and submit them to the Journal (see inside back cover for information). The Editorial Board will be happy to evaluate them for publication.

ASTM is very pleased with the interest in the Journal shown by the subscription response as well as by the number of papers contributed from many countries. With your help, we will make continued progress in developing this Journal into the most useful and informative source on soil and rock testing.

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Geotechnical Testing Journal