

*Vincent P. Drnevich, Technical Editor and
Ernest T. Selig, Founder and First Technical Editor*

Editorial—Reflections and Projections



DRNEVICH

With this issue, we are beginning the 10th anniversary celebration of the *Geotechnical Testing Journal*. The celebration will end with the Dec. 1988 issue when an index to all volumes from March 1978 through Dec. 1988 will be published.

Celebrations are

cause for reflection on how the *Journal* has been evolved and on what contributions it has made. They also may be used to plan for the future. Through this editorial, we will share with you our reflections and projections on the GTJ. We invite the readership to participate in charting the future by commenting on the successes and failures of the past and by making recommendations for improvements. After reading this editorial, take a few moments to send your thoughts and ideas to us.



SELIG

tation. The categories of contributions would include (1) technical papers, (2) technical notes, (3) suggested methods of test, (4) discussions, (5) letters to the editor, (6) reviews of reports and papers, and (7) D-18 news.

An Editorial Board was established to advise the Technical Editor on policy and guide the growth and development of the *Journal*. The first Board, appointed by the D-18 chairman, Ivan Johnson, consisted of 15 persons from government, industry and universities, including the Technical Editor and five persons from outside the United States. These persons were Wim Bronkhorst, Instituut Voor Geotechniek, Belgium; Stephen Brown, University of Nottingham, England; Richard Campanella, University of British Columbia; Clarence Chan, University of California at Berkeley; Gary Durham, Ground Engineering and Testing Service; William Eden, National Research Council of Canada; Charles Haas, University of Missouri-Rolla; Bruce MacIver, Stone and Webster Engineering Corp; Zachieh Moh, Moh and Associates, Taiwan; Syd Peng, West Virginia University; John Schmertmann, Schmertmann and Crapps Inc.; Ernie Selig, University of Massachusetts; Woodland Shockley, Waterways Experiment Station; Marshall Silver, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Frank Townsend, University of Florida.

Growth and Achievements

The *Journal* was successful from the outset, with a steady flow of spontaneous contributions and a significant subscription level. The only problem was that the mechanics of getting the first issue out took longer than originally planned. Thus the first issue dated March 1978 was not actually delivered until the fall of 1978. The *Journal* was issued on a regular quarterly thereafter. However efforts to simultaneously produce two additional issues in order to get the *Journal* on the proper calendar schedule were unsuccessful. Thus the decision was made to publish two double issues in 1982 so that all subsequent issues would be in phase with the calendar.

In June 1984, the *Journal's* seventh year, Vince Drnevich was invited by the D-18 Executive Subcommittee to succeed Ernie Selig as the Technical Editor. Vince took the opportunity to expand the international representation on the Editorial Board. This has brought additional visibility to GTJ and increased paper submissions and subscriptions from abroad.

In the first 10 years approximately 260 refereed articles were published. These consisted of 69% papers, 24% technical notes, and 7% suggested methods of test. The sources of this material were approximately 68% university, 18% engineering firms or industry, and 14% government agencies. Thirty percent of the articles were submitted by international authors

from the following 24 countries: Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, W. Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Peoples Republic of China, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, and USSR. The *Journal* truly is international!

The subjects of the published material have been categorized as follows to indicate the scope of content:

	Percent of Total
Lab apparatus and procedures	43
Field tests	17
Instrumentation	13
Soil or material behavior	9
Analysis	6
Model tests	5
Geosynthetics	5
Other, including specifications	2
	100

The TESTING FORUM section of each issue has continued all kinds of information that is not classified as refereed materials, particularly progress reports on the work of D-18 subcommittees, and announcements of meetings and awards. Efforts have been directed towards increased use of this section for special reports. For example, this issue contains a report on membrane corrections in triaxial testing. The process was initiated by an editorial in the Sept. 1986 issue, which asked some fundamental questions about membrane corrections. Responses from the readership were received and were evaluated by a panel of persons selected by the Technical Editor. The panel's report summarizes the responses and gives some recommendations. In addition, on the average, one out of every three issues contains a discussion of technical articles and a letter to the editor from readers.

Book and report reviews were extensive in the early years when a report review service was provided by the Waterways Experiment Station Soil Mechanics Information Center. In recent years reviews have been limited to the relatively few books emphasizing testing.

GTJ at Its Tenth Birthday

GTJ is healthy and growing. There is an increasing flow of good quality papers. The flow is large enough now that a slight backlog exists in getting the papers published. The flow also is providing a heavy workload on the Technical Editor who assigns all reviewers, integrates the reviewers decisions, and provides technical editing of the final drafts of all *Journal* contents.

The number of subscriptions was increased

The Beginning

The sponsoring committee for this *Journal* is Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock. The objective of D-18 is to advance the state of the art of geotechnical testing. Historically this has been done mainly by the hard work of subcommittees in writing testing standards and sponsoring symposia on selected topics. The papers prepared for the symposia are the responsibility of a designated subcommittee and are usually published in Special Technical Publications (STPs) of ASTM.

The idea for the *GT Journal* was conceived with the recognition that a vast amount of valuable information on geotechnical testing existed and would continue to evolve that did not have an appropriate forum for dissemination through the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* or STPs. The existence of quality national geotechnical journals with international distribution was recognized, but these were determined to have a different emphasis and also found to be insufficient for direct support of ASTM D-18's mission.

After considerable debate of the pros and cons of starting a new *Geotechnical Testing Journal* within ASTM the decision was made to undertake the project on a trial basis. Its purpose was to provide a forum for dissemination of information to the profession on such geotechnical topics as laboratory and field test methods, material properties, and instrumen-

by one-third due to a 1985 mailing of a brochure to potential subscribers. A second mailing is scheduled for later this spring. At the current time, there are approximately 1000 domestic subscriptions and 400 foreign subscriptions.

In future issues we would like to see an increased number of contributions from engineering firms and government agencies; information on new developments in testing equipment, apparatus and instrumentation; and more use of Testing Forum to exchange ideas and information on testing.

Sharing the Labor

The effort associated with producing a technical journal is formidable. Fortunately, a well organized team exists, which involves the ASTM Staff, the Technical Editor, the Editorial Board, and the reviewers.

The system is under the jurisdiction of the Society's Committee on Publications. Manuscripts are sent to the Acquisitions and Review Department headed by Kathy Greene where GTJ articles are handled by Bette Grugan. A copy of a submitted article is sent to the Technical Editor who assigns reviewers. Reviewers are selected from Reviewer Interest forms submitted by persons offering to assist with reviews, from the membership of Committees D4, D18, and D35, and from the profession at large. Other copies of the articles are sent by Bette to the reviewers. She also sends reminders to those reviewers who may be tardy in responding. All reviewer comments are collected and sent to the Technical Editor who sends his summary back to Bette for sending to the author(s).

Very few articles are accepted for publication exactly as submitted. A few require minor changes before being acceptable. Many require significant changes. If the required changes are extensive and significant, one or

more of the original reviewers may be asked to verify that the changes are made. For other cases, the Technical Editor does the verification.

Once a paper is accepted, additional editing is done by Susan Gebremedhin of the ASTM Staff and by the Technical Editor to ensure that the paper complies with ASTM form and style requirements. The authors are asked to check the edited version for correctness. The authors also are given the chance to check the typeset manuscript. This process is time consuming but is necessary for maintaining a high quality journal. Suggestions for improvement of the process are always welcomed.

The Editorial Board members act as advisors to the Technical Editor and take on special assignments such as book reviews, D18 News, D4 News, and Testing Tips Articles. Editorial Board Members also assist by reviewing a larger number of papers than others.

Growth Generates Changes—Some Ideas for the Future

Currently, there is a small backlog of papers waiting to be published. It is likely to increase unless some changes are instituted. Changes that are being considered are (1) tighten up the acceptance rate, (2) increase the size of each issue, and (3) change the number of issues for each volume from four to six. The Editorial Board, ASTM Staff, and ASTM's Committee on Publications will be deliberating these questions this year.

With the increased volume of papers, there is an increased work load for the Technical Editor. Some division of labor to "Associate Technical Editors" most likely will be necessary. When this takes place, it would be nice to have all those concerned with the process working with a common computer-linked data base. Such a system should speed up the mechanics of the process and will reduce the pos-

sibility of loading anyone down with excessive number of papers to review.

Already, we are seeing some manuscripts being accompanied by a floppy disk containing a file of the manuscript. It is only a matter of time until this becomes the norm. One of the current obstacles is that so many different word processors are now available, that ASTM does not have translators from all of these to their system. The situation will become even more complicated before it is resolved with the increased use of desktop publishing systems that integrate figures with the text.

New products and technologies are always being introduced in our field. In the past, we have endeavored to cover these in the *Journal*. However, the kinds of information that are really needed by the readership may not be the kind of information that is being received by GTJ from those doing the research and writing. It is one of the functions of the Editorial Board to recognize this and to initiate actions to make the *Journal* more responsive.

Again, reader input to the Technical Editor or to one of the Editorial Board members on all of these issues will be most welcomed.

Some Closing Thoughts

In the process of producing GTJ, we have three main objectives: (1) to provide a publication of quality that informs the profession of new developments in soil and rock testing and related fields; (2) to provide a forum for the exchange of information, particularly that which leads to the development of new test procedures or improves existing procedures; and (3) to stimulate active participation of the profession in the work of ASTM committees dealing with soil and rock. These objectives were printed inside the front cover of each issue to remind us of them. We pledge to keep these objectives in mind as we carry on our daily efforts and chart the future.