



A. Ivan Johnson

Since its beginning in 1936, ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock for Engineering Purposes has developed into an interdisciplinary voice for the broad field of science and technology concerned with the properties of soil and rock. Because Committee D-18 is eminent in the field of geotechnical testing, it seemed desirable to develop this new ASTM journal in order to promote wider and better communication between specialists from the many disciplines in this field. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to initiate this new journal.

An endeavor such as this represents the hard work of many members and officers of Committee D-18 and the ASTM Headquarters' staff, and I appreciate all their efforts. Special credit goes to Professor Ernest T. Selig, second vice-chairman of Committee D-18 and chairman of Subcommittee D18.92 on Papers, for his diligence in seeing that the journal concept was carried through to a successful conclusion—the publication of this issue.

The overall objectives of Committee D-18 are to promote research and to develop specifications, standard test methods, and recommended practices related to the properties and behavior of soil and rock. Over the past years, Committee D-18 has developed a remarkable number of standards and has sponsored a large number of technical symposia in fulfilling these objectives. The symposia and the resultant ASTM Special Technical Publications have provided an outlet where members and nonmembers could communicate information on newly developed standard methods, new applications or criticisms of old methods, and new sampling or testing methods submitted for trial, review, and criticism. We believe that this journal provides an additional means for even greater communication among geotechnical testing specialists and between these specialists and specialists in related disciplines.

I invite international and national specialists in geotechnical testing and related disciplines to participate in this new journal. Technical Editor Selig and his editorial board have published the first issue; the future of the journal is now in the hands of all specialists in soil and rock testing.

A. IVAN JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE D-18



Ernest T. Selig

This is the first issue of what will be an important new geotechnical journal. Recognizing that new journals are not desired unless they fulfill a significant and necessary role not handled by existing journals, ASTM decided to create this journal only after careful study.

The function of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock for Engineering Purposes is to develop methods for evaluating the properties of geotechnical materials. Our standards in soil and rock testing are in use throughout the world, and our Special Technical Publications have wide circulation. However, improvements in existing methods, as well as ideas for new methods, are vitally needed. Whether or not formal standards become the end product, an exchange of testing ideas within this profession will enhance the practice of geotechnical engineering.

This journal therefore undertakes to: (1) provide a publication of quality that informs the profession of new developments in soil and rock testing and related fields; (2) 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) stimulate active participation of the profession in the work of Committee D-18. Such a purpose is logically a responsibility of ASTM. We invite the profession to participate actively in this venture.

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