



CHARLES AUGUSTIN COULOMB
(1736-1806)

*From his portrait in the Louvre. Reproduced from Transactions of the
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EDITORIAL

Response to the publication of *Géotechnique* is encouraging and shows the need for such a Journal. At the time of writing, the number of subscribers from thirty countries is about five hundred. This is not quite enough to cover the cost of publication and it is hoped that more will be forthcoming.

Sufficient material has already been promised for the next number, but the Editors invite articles of not more than 5,000 words for future publication. These should be original contributions to Geotechnology, and may be either in French or in English. Field observations and correlations of full scale tests with laboratory tests will be particularly welcome.

Deep beds of soft clay present difficult problems in Civil Engineering, and it has been suspected that samples taken from them are rarely if ever "undisturbed." Recent work in Sweden and a paper published in this number show that at least in some cases laboratory tests of shear strength made on such samples give results which are definitely erroneous when compared with those calculated from the analysis of slip curves, or with the shear strength as measured by the recently developed vane test.

The vane test is an advance in technique which promises to be important in practice. It is our intention to publish other examples of its use, and also to collect and publish detailed and reliable data on the properties of geologically recent clays.

Our next number will include the first of a series of articles on the so-called Geotechnical Processes. These articles, written by accepted authorities, will cover Drainage, Compaction, Artificial Cementing and Base Exchange.

Two articles in French intended for this number were not ready for the printer, the fact that all the articles are in English does not indicate a change in policy.

Second International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, Rotterdam, 1948.

We are informed that copies of the Proceedings of the Conference, Volumes 1 to 6, are still available, price 75 guilders. A seventh volume, price 15 guilders, will be published if sufficient orders are received. Application should be made to the Secretary of the Conference, Oostplantsoen. 25, Delft, Holland.