Preface and acknowledgments

In planning the program of the conference, the Program Committee attempted to arrange it so that it could be adapted to the format of a textbook. Indeed, one of the objects of the conference was to produce an up-to-date reference text on Mining and Groundwater Geophysics. A conscious effort was made to cover the subject as completely as possible with contributions from recognized authorities within the various specialties and with a minimum of duplication. The Program Committee also tried to obtain broad geographical representation through the choice of authors. While we feel that the former aim was in large measure achieved, we were less successful in the latter, so that inevitably the final product does have a North American and Canadian bias.

The question of whether or not to include engineering geophysics was discussed in the early stages of planning. Its inclusion was rejected on the basis that the attendance at such a conference would be so large as to be unmanageable. It was also considered that a dichotomy would develop in which the engineers would want to talk about physical rock properties and soil mechanics, whereas the geophysicists and geologists would be primarily interested in prospecting and exploration. In retrospect, we consider the judgment to have been correct, not only for the conference but also for this volume, which would also have become unmanageable in size.

Groundwater geophysics was included because it is just in the process of being spawned off from mining and petroleum exploration geophysics and therefore needs to be fostered and encouraged. Mining geophysics has been passably supported financially for nearly 50 years, largely by private capital. Groundwater geophysics, on the other hand, by its nature was less able to attract venture capital for its development. It was not until the International Hydrologic Decade program of the IUGG, spurred on by the impact of the world population explosion and the absolute necessity to consider the problem of water supply on a national and international basis, that governments began to fund research in this field in a significant way. It is speculated that when the next international conference of this kind is held, groundwater geophysics may have assumed the dominant role.

The assembling of this volume was carried out by many individuals who contributed variously and whose efforts are gratefully acknowledged.

To begin with, the technical program was arranged by the Program Committee under the very able chairmanship of Dr. H.O. Seigel, and many of these people continued to work on after the conference in the roles of associate editors or critical readers.

Program Committee

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