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Abstract

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The geotechnical engineering profession has inherited a rich body of literature that documents the development of fundamental concepts and their application to practical problems. Many of these papers contain information as useful today as when they were first written. Others provide great insight into the origins and development of our field and the thought processes of its leaders. A History of Progress: Selected U.S. Papers in Geotechnical Engineering provides a wide view of the development of geotechnical engineering from a broad spectrum of contributors. From the highly theoretical to the elegantly practical, the 78 historical papers in this one-of-a-kind collection are significant for their contribution to the geotechnical engineering literature. A large collection of papers by Karl Terzaghi, widely known as the father of soil mechanics, are included -- as well as papers by other early pioneers in the field, Including R.R. Proctor, Arthur Casagrande, and Ralph Peck. The papers of over 60 other geotechnical engineering pioneers also appear in this collection. The Geo-Institute decided to reprint these papers in this 2-volume Geotechnical Special Publication to make the papers more readily available and hence promote their use by the geotechnical engineering profession. Papers were selected by a committee of eminent engineers representing academia and practice in various segments of the geotechnical engineering profession.

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