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## Preface

David Price had written the greater part of this book by the time he died; it has been completed by his colleagues as a tribute to the many contributions he made to the subject of engineering geology through his professional and academic life.

David graduated from the University of Wales in 1954 with the degree of Geology with Mathematics and Physics, joined the Overseas Division of the Geological Survey and was despatched to what was then British Guiana, to map economic mineral reserves and construction materials. He returned to the UK in 1958 to join the construction company George Wimpey. The post-war boom was beginning and David was engaged as an engineering geologist. In those days industry appreciated the need for research, as little was known for the tasks that had to be completed, and David joined a remarkable group of scientists and engineers at Wimpey's Central Laboratory at Hayes; the young reader can best visualise this as an "industrial university". At that time formal education and training in engineering geology did not exist and as David recalled "... *no one really knew what they were doing; we followed the principles of our subject, used common sense, learnt from what happened on site and talked to those who seemed to know more than we on the subject in hand.*" It was David's generation that established "Engineering Geology", as we now know it, in the UK and he played a full part in its foundation.

In 1975 David was appointed to the Chair of Engineering Geology at the Technical University of Delft. There he witnessed both the academic growth of the subject and the portents of its demise, for by the time he retired, in 1993, David could see that university funding would threaten the teaching of his subject. It was time to write the book that had long been his intention; a text that set out simply and clearly "... *what engineering geology is about and how it's done*" and to do so uncluttered by theory and equation, which were to be used only to illustrate the information required from the field for design and analyses; a book for those new to the subject, based on his lifetime's experience as a practicing engineering geologist, and on his view of the priorities for its practice.

David started writing the work in the summer of 1995 but died shortly before his text was finished. He agreed it should be completed by his colleagues and it has been our happy task to complete that left undone, to smooth that left rough, and to connect that left unconnected. Where possible the text has remained as written. The chapters were divided amongst those of his colleagues who could help and their names stand next to the chapters with which they were involved. *Ian Higginbottom*, a contemporary from his days at Wimpey and life-long friend whom David viewed in many ways as his mentor. *John Knill*, also of that vintage, Reader and later Professor of Engineering Geology at Imperial College London, close friend and academic ally who was influential

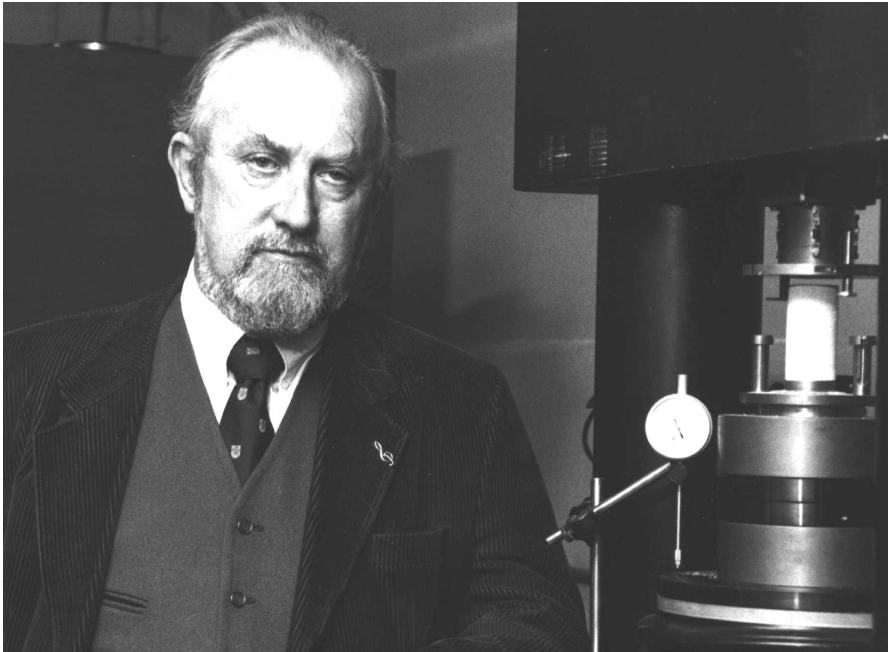
in David's move from industry to academia. *Michiel Maurenbrecher*, long time academic colleague and loyal member of David's staff in Engineering Geology at Delft. *Robert Hack*, of the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) at Delft and Enschede, a former student of David who became a close associate and shared with him much teaching, and many research projects.

David George Price, 1932–1999

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