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Preface

As early as the International Congress of the IABSE in Stockholm in 1960, Working Commission III, dealing with questions concerning concrete, reinforced concrete and masonry structures, established a working group devoted to corrosion of the reinforcement in structures of reinforced and prestressed concrete. The late Prof. H. Louis kindly agreed to act as Reporting Member.

A considerable number of serious cases of corrosion failure were known at that time, so obviously the problem was timely and important. There was also a natural tendency not to give full publicity to such cases, because structural failures are often connected with faults in design or execution.

Thus there was a great need felt for more information and for a systematic study of all available facts concerning cases of corrosion. On the other hand, it was considered appropriate and correct to ask for information in such a way that full anonymity could be preserved. In that spirit a rather detailed questionnaire was prepared and distributed to all Chairmen of the National Groups within the IABSE, requesting answers comprising as much information as possible.

In the Introduction to the Report there is an account of how the work became complicated and how time elapsed, until all the data were gathered, analyzed, and conclusions drawn, so that the report could be finished and readied for publication. A commentary follows.

First, I should like to point out that Prof. Louis devoted much of his spare time to his assignment and that he was eager to arrive at a valuable and significant result. Thus, after the questionnaire had been sent out, but only a rather limited number of answers had been received, he prepared a preliminary report, which he presented at the meeting of the Permanent Committee in Zurich in 1963. His report attracted a great deal of attention. Because many National Groups had not answered the questionnaire, a recommendation was made to redistribute the same questionnaire. This was done, and about as many fresh answers came in as after the first distribution of the questionnaire, which means that the available material was doubled in size.

Prof. Louis, however, was destined never to complete his work. He was tragically overtaken by death in 1966.

It is with profound gratitude that we remember Prof. Louis, his self-sacrificing work, his humility, his competence, his great interest in international cooperation, and everything he has done in that spirit within our Association.

Fortunately, the function of Reporting Member could be resumed and the assignment completed by Prof. R. Baus, Prof. Louis' son-in-law. He worked in cooperation with Mrs. K. Brenneisen, Assistant at the University of Liège.

To Prof. Baus and to Mrs. Brenneisen we should like to express our sincere thanks for their extensive and painstaking labours, which called for a great deal

of patience and good will. In their report, they have also referred to the literature on corrosion problems, as well as to different reports and studies made by other international and national bodies concerning related subjects.

Sincere thanks should also be extended to Prof. Lobry de Bruyn, former President of the RILEM Commission on Corrosion, who has kindly offered his assistance in the interpretation of the data and case information.

Finally, we should like to thank all National Groups and individuals, who must here remain unnamed, who have contributed to the survey by sending in the requested information.

The long and inevitable delay probably made it possible to gather some additional material, to utilize the increase in fundamental knowledge accruing during the time elapsed and to compare the conclusions with those reached by other bodies dealing with similar problems.

Georg Wästlund

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