

# ISRM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book 1962–2012

Publication of this book was financially supported by:



International Society for Rock Mechanics



State Key Laboratory of Geomechanics and Geotechnical Engineering  
Institute of Rock and Soil Mechanics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

## Editors

John A. Hudson & Luís Lamas

It has been a pleasure for the Editors to have compiled and published this Commemorative Book celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM). Although the history of mankind's use of rock as an engineering material is lost in the mists of time, it is only in the last 50 years that the subject of rock mechanics and its use in rock engineering have been formally recognised through the formation of the ISRM in 1962 and its 50-year continued activities through to 2012. During that time there have been many significant advances in the subject, both theoretical and practical, not to mention all the personnel interaction advantages of the many ISRM symposia that have taken place during the period.

This book has, therefore been compiled to celebrate ISRM's 50-year anniversary by outlining the background to the formation of the ISRM and the most significant activities during the 50 years. The anniversary celebrations started at the 12th ISRM Congress held in Beijing, China, in October 2011 and continued until the ISRM EUROCK Symposium held in Stockholm, Sweden, in May 2012—when this book was published.

Following Chapters 1–3 on the formation of the ISRM, the founding documents, and an overview of the first 50 years, in Chapters 4–7 there are historical data on the sequence of the ISRM Presidents, the Müller Award recipients and Manuel Rocha medal recipients, plus reminiscences by the successive ISRM Secretaries-General. The book then includes a description of the ISRM in 2012, together with the current status of the six ISRM geographical regions, how rock mechanics developments have supported engineering practice, and the ISRM's co-operation with related professional Societies. Finally, in Chapter 12, there are predictions for the evolution of rock mechanics and the ISRM over the next 50 years. In the Appendices, there are further detailed historical data.

**Order** from the ISRM Secretariat: [secretariat.isrm@lnec.pt](mailto:secretariat.isrm@lnec.pt)

200 pages, illustrated

Price: EUR 25 for ISRM members, EUR 30 for non-members, excl. P&P

ISBN: 978-989-20-3012-8

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