Introduction

Determination of the surface area, particle size, and size distribution of hydraulic cements and other comminuted mineral materials raises many complex philosophical and practical questions. Interpretation of the significance of results obtained, either by standard ASTM procedures or by newer and more exotic techniques, is sometimes even more difficult. With these considerations in mind, ASTM Committee C-1 on Cement, through its Subcommittees on Fineness and on Papers and Symposia, decided to sponsor a series of papers at the Seventy-first Annual Meeting of the Society in San Francisco. Response to a call for papers was unusually broad and varied; some were presented in a formal symposium, while others were less formally presented at a special meeting of the Subcommittee on Fineness.

A representative selection of papers which could be made available for publication has been collected in this volume. It should be of interest and practical value to anyone who needs to accumulate or interpret data on the particle size functions of materials ranging down into the micron and submicron sizes.

The authors deserve great credit, as do G. J. Verbeck and K. J. Schatzlein who arranged and made the symposium possible.

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