It gives us great pleasure to present this monograph for use and reference by design, development, production, and maintenance engineers, managements and all those associated with the industries manufacturing sulfuric acid and sulfonating agents.

This book attempts to update and compile the information and experience generated on the technology of manufacture of these chemicals over the last few decades, after earlier treatment of this subject by Andrew M. Fairlie in the 1940s and by Werner W. Duecker and James R. West in the 1960s.

These industries are vital for the technical and economic progress of any country—a fact which has been well acknowledged throughout the world. Even though the chemical reactions involved in production of these chemicals are well known and the technologies for their manufacture are well established, we have made an attempt to compile and update the information available.

This attempt is to compile the latest state-of-the-art on sulfuric acid and sulfonating agents based on our own experience for the design, erection, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of production plants as well as the experience of many well known industries and knowledgeable people in the field. In addition, we have attempted to highlight the important technical issues for future development, smooth and safe plant operation, and economic viability in view of the rising raw material and energy costs globally.

We have taken due note of standard works on the subject such as ‘The Manufacture of Sulfuric Acid’ by Werner W. Duecker and James R. West, ‘Sulfuric Acid Manufacture’ by Andrew M. Fairlie, ‘Encyclopaedia of Chemical Technology’ by Kirk and Othmer, ‘Sulfuric Acid Manufacture’ by King, Moats, and Davenport, ‘Handbook of Sulfuric Acid Manufacture’ by D.K. Louie as well as information available through websites of reputed manufacturers and technology suppliers for sulfuric acid plants and equipment required for the same.

It is hoped that the practising personnel and management will find the book useful for improving plant efficiency, safety, environment, diversification to value added products such as liquid SO₂ and SO₃, expansion of capacity, profitability, etc., and will be able to contribute significantly to the progress in the state-of-the-art in sulfuric acid industry.

We also hope that this monograph will stimulate creative thinking for further all-round development.
We welcome creative suggestions from knowledgeable experts for updating the improvements in this field and due acknowledgement of these will be incorporated in future editions.

The publication of this book has been made possible with very active and valuable help from the NEAT team.

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