



**A Reply to a Discussion by J.S. Lota, (the late) P.L. Patt and J. Bensted of the
Paper "MICROSTRUCTURAL AND MICROANALYTICAL STUDIES OF
SULFATE ATTACK. II. SULFATE-RESISTING PORTLAND CEMENT:
FERRITE COMPOSITION AND HYDRATION CHEMISTRY"***

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We are grateful for this discussion, which includes some valuable observations.

The authors express surprise that we had not referred to the work described in Dr Lota's Ph.D. thesis. The omission is explained by the fact that our paper was submitted in January, 1994, whereas the thesis only became a public document in May of that year. We look forward to seeing the 5 papers which the authors mention as being in preparation.

In answer to the authors' question, we were unable to confirm the presence of hydrogarnet in our SEM studies. As we noted in our paper (first paragraph of the Discussion), the hydration products high in Al_2O_3 were closely mixed with C-S-H. Except in the case of the monosulfate, the mixing was on too fine a scale to allow the individual phases to be isolated by backscattered electron imaging or X-ray microanalysis, which were the methods used. Transmission electron microscopy of ion thinned sections might provide more detailed information.