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Preface

The safeguard of our cultural heritage in the modern world requires the application of many different theoretical, experimental and empirical resources provided by the geoscience, chemistry, material science, biology and construction engineering. The past decades have seen an unprecedented level of research activity in this area. Most of the results are published as extended abstracts in conference proceedings and are usually difficult to access, especially for the international community. As such, we have edited the present volume with the intention of providing an integrated approach to the study of the deterioration of geomaterials rather than to focus on individual facets of the discipline. The production of this volume was inspired by international workshops held in Göttingen (Germany), Strasbourg (France) and Prague (Czech Republic). The editors gratefully acknowledge B. Fitzner for the cover photos and the following colleagues for their reviews: G. Alessandrini, G. Ashall, S.A. Bortz, D. Boscence, P. Brimblecombe, F. J. Brosch, St. Brüggerhoff, B. Budelmann, L. Burlini, H. Burkhardt, D. Camuffo, J. Cassar, T. Le Champion, A. E. Charola, E. Doehne, A. Ehling, E. Evenson, V. Fassina, L. Fiora, B. Fitzner, R. Gaupp, S. Golubic, A. S. Goudie, G. Grassegger, W. D. Grimm, S. Grunert, P. Hackspacher, K. Heinrichs, K. Helming, M. Hoppert, J. Hoefs, W. Klemm, R. Koch, K. Kraus, L. Lazzarini, A. Jornet, J. Kulenkampff, K. Knorr, R. A. Lefèvre, U. Lindborg, R. Löfvendahl, P. Ludwig, K. Malaga, P. Marini, D. Meischner, P. W. Mirwald, D. Mottershead, H. Pape, G. Poli, T. Popp, M. Prasad, A. Putnis, A. Rohatsch, H. Ruppert, B. Sabbioni, H. Schaeben, J. Schneider, J. Schön, J. Schröder, H. Siedel, B. Silva, B. Smith, R. Snethlage, E. Stadlbauer, M. Steiger, A. Török, V. Vergès-Belmin, H. Viles, P. Warke, T. Warscheid, H.R. Wenk, E. Winkler, G. Wheeler, T. Yates, M. Young, A. Zang, F. Zezza.

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