# THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MANAGEMENT

EDITED BY

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SECOND EDITION

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# THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MANAGEMENT

#### By E. F. L. Brech

# ORGANISATION: THE FRAMEWORK OF MANAGEMENT

By Leonard Hardy
MARKETING FOR PROFIT

#### PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

However unusual the initiation, this Preface starts deliberately with a plea to reviewers—even more than to student readers—to read it, because of its bearing on the arrangement of the book and the presentation of the content.

Consumer satisfaction reflected in continuing and growing sales at profit to the producers is an accepted criterion of business success the world over. To accomplish this while contributing constructively to social advancement through higher education is an added gilding to the success. No less is the attainment of this volume in the few

years of its life since first publication.

Acceptance and success, however, impose their own obligations. To the extent that this volume has gained standing as the authoritative British textbook for the serious study of management—standing thus abroad as well as at home—there is the obligation to bring its content and quality to the higher standards that are required to match the advancing levels of contemporary practice. Such is the purpose of this revised second edition. The revision has been thorough-going, the amendment comprehensive: there are new contributing authors, new matter in line with current thought, new presentation where application has advanced. To claim with a subject as wide as modern management that no aspect has been overlooked would be presumptuous, but it can be claimed that, within the limits of practical presentation, the volume offers some instruction on most of the facets of the role of any successful manager.

In fact, the comprehensive range of the revision is the source of one serious misgiving—for the already considerable length of the first edition has been extended in the second! Unavoidably so, if the revision was to accomplish its purpose. It can, perhaps, be taken as an Editor's privilege to forestall the criticisms of the reviewers: here indeed is a legitimate occasion, for there will assuredly be dismay at this greater size of the volume. Only one basic answer is the justifying explanation—the importance of the subject and the necessity to ensure that those who are practising, or aspiring to practise, the profession of management have opportunity afforded to see their skills and their roles in the round. The alternative treatment is a series of specialist handbooks, an approach that would negative the very objective of this work. That suggestion was made for the first edition and it will be repeated for the second; perhaps

advances in the understanding of management principles and practices will make it reasonable for the third! Such a state of development, however, has not yet been reached, and it has therefore been felt advisable to retain the integrated comprehensive presentation, despite the consequential bulk. There is a business aspect too: this single volume will cost less this way than the sum of its components separately issued! If the alternative were suggested as a reduction in scope and depth of treatment, perhaps the reviewers can exercise their minds on recommendations as to which items in the contents should be eliminated or reduced.

The basic approach of the first edition has been preserved in the sense of "delegation" to each contributing author, and of maintaining the broad framework of the accepted four divisions of management practice. As was said in the Preface to the first edition, no attempt has been made to present these specialist sections in any common form or style. Each is the work of an authority with highlevel practical experience in his own field. To preserve the full benefit of this expert knowledge, each contribution has been left in its author's own language and presentation. Inevitably, there is a limited measure of overlap in detail, and here and there a little contradiction in practice. But co-ordination of thought from the outset of the work has prevented disagreement in principle. Perhaps the only weakness that springs from this independence of treatment is the irritation of slight differences in terminology. No apology is offered for this, or called for, even though some criticism of this has been expressed in the past. Management is a relatively new field of organised knowledge, and for some years to come divergencies in word as well as in practice will necessarily characterise its development. It can but be hoped that the continuing spread of serious management study and of professional standards will in time bring out the fusion of thought and terminology into a common language.

To obviate irritation, however, the amount of cross-reference between the Parts and Chapters has been held down to the essential minimum.

In framing the content of our various Chapters and Sections, we have aimed at presenting the latest known and proven principles and practices. This is, we hope, an up-to-date study of management which will stand the test of time. Its best value will be obtained, we feel, as an aid to organised studies, where the lecturer or tutor can further expound points of principle set out, or bring forward as illustrations other practices and methods, as well as circumstances in which different techniques appear to contradict our views. In other words, we lay no claim to exhaustive or exclusive treatment

of the various aspects of management covered. By the same token, we feel we have avoided providing in a textbook a substitute for the lecturer's or the student's own thinking. Much of the extra length of this second edition stems from the desire to present a rounded treatment of subject-matter in terms of contemporary ideas; this is particularly true of the major addition in the form of Part Five where there is consideration not only of the newer aspects of general management practice, but also of the underlying philosophical thought which is beginning to characterise the outlook of the more advanced managers. Such an addition is essential at a period when many of the up-and-coming younger managers have a background of high academic attainment and are bringing to the practice of their profession an unwonted depth of thought.

To the older, established managers, too, we are sure this volume has an important contribution to offer—in the refreshment of knowledge, in the presentation of new approach, in the stimulus to improvement of long-accepted but now perhaps deficient methods, and in the advancement of objectives and standards. In this context the new edition pays a compliment to all managers, because it is based on the expectation that they will accept analytical thinking as a

vital factor in professional management competence.

Because of the background of its authors, this study of management has necessarily been written in industrial terms, with its bias mainly to the manufacturing industries and the distributive activities directly associated with them. A good deal of the matter, however—in the realm of practice as well as of principle—is of relevance to such purely commercial fields as wholesale and retail trade or the management of financial institutions, to the nationalised industries, and even to many aspects of the local and central government machinery.

In the past decade one significant change has characterised the industrial and commercial scene of Britain, as of every other major country in the world, in the recognition of the importance of the high-level skills involved in the practice of successful management. It is too early yet to talk of widespread acceptance of a "profession", but the notion is seriously gaining ground. Already there is acceptance of manager roles and objectives reaching beyond the confines of the profit position of an individual business, and the horizon of a truly-established and seriously-followed profession of management begins already to loom within human vision. Excellent educational work by a number of national and international bodies has been lending impetus to this evolution, drawing substantial support from the serious interchanges of thought and experience among many practising managers from many different settings. With justifiable

pride can Britain look back on her own contributions as one of the leading pioneers in this movement. For the Britons of the bygone age, when the pioneering was laborious and seemingly fruitless, there is consolation in the later rapid progress that their own earlier foundation made possible. That their Lordships in Upper House of Parliament could stage a full-scale debate on the "Responsibilities of Management" would have been unthinkable to our forebears of a generation ago: in the winter of 1960 the event seemed not remarkable, momentous though it was. This of itself is a measure of the progress of the role of the manager in the national economy. This is, too, the justification for this seriously-designed revision to form the Second Edition.

E. F. L. BRECH Editor

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