BERT ROSENBLOOM

MARKETING CHANNELS

A MANAGEMENT VIEW

SECOND EDITION

8462762

Marketing Channels: A Management View

Second Edition

Bert Rosenbloom

Drexel University

The Dryden Press

Chicago New York Philadelphia San Francisco Montreal Toronto London Sydney Tokyo Mexico City Rio de Janeiro Madrid Acquisitions Editor: Karen Emilson Project Editor: Ruta Graff Managing Editor: Jane Perkins Design Director: Alan Wendt Production Manager: Mary Jarvis Cover design by Margery Dole Copy editing by Terry Fertig Indexing by Jennifer Gordon

Composition by G&S Typesetters, Inc. Text type: 10/12 Trump Mediaeval

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Address orders to: 383 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10017

Address editorial correspondence to: One Salt Creek Lane Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 82-72312 ISBN 0-03-058996-7 Printed in the United States of America 345-039-98765432

CBS College Publishing The Dryden Press Holt, Rinehart and Winston Saunders College Publishing

Foreword

The literature and practice pertaining to marketing channels has blossomed in the last decade through the contributions of many individuals and firms. Within this context, today's student needs a comprehensive and insightful exposure to this increasingly important area of business and marketing. This revised work by Bert Rosenbloom certainly helps provide this exposure.

Marketing Channels: A Management View represents a second edition of a most successful channels text. The book is characterized by its managerial perspective, focusing on the channel decision maker's design and management of the firm's marketing channels. This perspective provides a common thread to the text and results in a well-organized, highly readable book.

Marketing Channels: A Management View is also distinguished by its comprehensiveness and currency. Additional depth is provided in the revised edition, and many topical issues and developments are integrated into the discussion. From a student's and instructor's perspective, the book also offers an excellent infusion of illustrations and examples and provides twenty-five cases for additional pedagogical benefit.

Professor Rosenbloom is to be commended for this significant contribution to the channels and marketing literatures.

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Preface

Since the first edition of *Marketing Channels: A Management View* was published in 1978, the field of marketing channels has grown substantially. More research is being done on marketing channels, the literature is accumulating rapidly, and more and more collegiate schools of business have added marketing channels courses to marketing curricula at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This dramatic increase in interest in marketing channels reflects the growing importance of this area within the larger field of marketing. Further, with the increased emphasis on strategic planning in marketing in recent years, a fuller understanding of marketing channel management has become even more important. Marketing channel management as one of the key strategic areas of the marketing mix offers great potential for improving marketing management through strategically planned and effectively managed marketing channels.

Given these developments, the managerial approach to marketing channels pioneered in the first edition of *Marketing Channels: A Management View* is more relevant and timely than ever. Thus, the second edition continues to be consistent with the original objective of the first edition—to provide a *managerial focus to the marketing channels literature within a comprehensive and integrated managerial framework*. The content of the second edition continues to emphasize the kind of knowledge needed to make more effective channel decisions. While the text still covers all of the important aspects of channel theory and research, it avoids drawn out and esoteric discussions of this material and instead stresses *managerial implications*.

The basic approach and style used in the original text have also been maintained in this edition. Every effort has been made to present material as clearly and concisely as possible, and carefully chosen examples and vignettes have been used abundantly throughout the text to add concreteness and interest. Even though this second edition presents some rather sophisticated material, students are likely to find it one of the most interesting and easily understood of any upper division marketing text. The only prerequisite necessary is the basic marketing course which virtually all students will have taken before enrolling in the channels course.

Although the basic objective, approach, and style of the first edition have been maintained, substantial changes and additions have been made to the content of the text. These changes and additions are discussed in the next section.

Organization of the Second Edition

Part One, Marketing Channel Systems, lays a basic foundation of marketing channel concepts within a managerial framework. Chapter 1 has been greatly expanded. The relationship of channel management to the marketing mix and strategic marketing management is discussed in depth, the distinction between channel management and physical distribution management is carefully examined, and the concept of channel flows is introduced explicitly and discussed in detail from a channel management perspective. Other marketing channel concepts introduced in the first edition have also been refined in this chapter. Chapter 2, which deals with marketing channel participants, has also been greatly expanded. The material on manufacturers and wholesale and retail intermediaries is treated in much greater depth, and all data have been updated using the latest census figures available. Chapter 3, which presents an analysis of the environmental setting of marketing channels and discusses the implications of environmental change for channel management has been entirely rewritten to reflect the many environmental changes that have occurred since the first edition was published. The section on the legal environment has also been greatly expanded. Also, this material has been placed within the chapter rather than being divided between the chapter and an appendix. Chapter 4, dealing with behavioral processes in marketing channels, has been updated to incorporate the substantial amount of behavioral channel research that has taken place since the first edition was published.

Part Two, Developing the Marketing Channel, beginning with Chapter 5, presents a comprehensive discussion of channel design. The seven-phase channel design paradigm introduced in the first edition has been retained but new examples and refinements have been added. Chapter 6 offers a detailed discussion of the last phase of channel design (selection of the channel members). New illustrative material has been added and more emphasis has been given to the problem of recruiting prospective channel members. Finally, Chapter 7, dealing with how various market dimensions influence channel design strategy, has been refined and updated.

Part Three, Managing the Marketing Channel, discusses the administration of existing channels. The first chapter in this part (Chapter 8) discusses the problems involved in motivating the channel members to perform their tasks effectively and efficiently. The revision of this chapter places more emphasis on learning about channel member needs and problems and provides an expanded and updated discussion of distribution programming for motivating channel members. All of Chapter 9 in this edition is devoted entirely to product issues in channel management. It has been substantially expanded to include a comprehensive discussion of the relationship between strategic product management and channel management. The material on pricing issues in channel management

comprises a separate chapter (Chapter 10). Much new material on pricing in relation to channel management has also been added. Chapter 11, which deals with promotion in the marketing channel, has been revised to treat the distinction between "pulling" and "pushing" promotional strategies more explicitly than the first edition. Tighter organization was also achieved by placing this chapter directly following the pricing chapter rather than following the physical distribution chapter. Part Three concludes with Chapter 12 on physical distribution and channel management. This chapter has been thoroughly revised to provide a fuller discussion of the interfaces between physical distribution management and channel management.

Finally, Part Four of the text, Appraising the Marketing Channel, begins with Chapter 13 which tackles the issues involved in evaluating channel member performance. While the basic substance of this chapter is the same as in the first edition, some important refinements have been made to provide a stronger basis for performance evaluation in marketing channels. Chapter 14, the final chapter in the text, provides an updated discussion of the influence of vertical marketing systems on channel management.

The second edition of *Marketing Channels: A Management View* also has longer and more detailed chapter summaries than the first edition, and many of the discussion questions have been revised and new ones added. Finally, the case section, Part Five, has been substantially expanded. There are now a total of twenty-five cases. Almost one third of these are new to this edition, and most of these new cases are longer and more challenging than the cases they replaced. Thus, the section now has a good mix of short, medium, and long cases. A matrix relating the cases to relevant text chapters can be found at the beginning of the case section.

A Note on the Use of the Term Channel Manager

As in the first edition, the term "channel manager" continues to be used throughout as a way of referring to anyone in the firm involved in making channel decisions. Such terms as "decision maker," "marketing manager," "manager" or "marketer" could have been used in place of the term channel manager. But I chose to continue using the term channel manager because I believe it provides a sense of focus for referring to the important role of channel decision making within the firm. Regardless of what the individual's actual job title is, when that person is involved in making channel decisions, he or she is filling the role of channel manager even though such a position may not formally exist on the firm's organization chart. In other words, anyone in the firm who is making channel decisions is, while involved in that activity, a channel manager.

Acknowledgments

This revision effort was made much easier because of the excellent input provided by a fine group of reviewers. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the following colleagues for the excellent and painstaking job they did in providing ideas, comments, and constructive criticism which were invaluable to me in revising the original text:

William Black, University of Arizona (Tucson)
Raymond W. Knab, Jr., New York Institute of Technology
Charles W. Lamb, Jr., Texas Christian University
Orville C. Walker, Jr., University of Minnesota
Kaylene C. Williams, University of Delaware

I would also like to express my continuing thanks to the original group of reviewers who played such an important role in helping to shape the first edition of the text: Boris W. Becker (Oregon State University), M. Bixby Cooper (Michigan State University), Donald J. English, Jr. (St. Mary's College), Joseph P. Guiltinan (University of Kentucky), Stephen K. Keiser (University of Delaware), and Charles W. Lamb, Jr. (Texas Christian University).

The high level of professionalism displayed by the Dryden staff in the development of the first edition continued unabated in the second edition. I would especially like to express my sincere appreciation to Karen Emilson, Nancy Hughson, Ruta Graff, and Anne Smith.

Thanks are also due to Rolph Anderson, chairman of the marketing department at Drexel University, for his encouragement and assistance provided during the revision process and to the students in my marketing channels classes at Drexel who were subjected to various drafts of this revision.

Finally, as with the first edition, my deepest thanks goes to my wife, Pearl, for her unfailing support and assistance during every phase of the revision process.

Bert Rosenbloom Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Part One Marketing Channel Systems

In this first part of the text we discuss the basic foundations of marketing channel systems.

Chapter 1 begins with a managerial definition of the marketing channel and then moves on to a discussion of how marketing channel strategy relates to strategic marketing management. Then basic concepts such as channel flows, channel structure, and the rationale for the existence of marketing channels are discussed.

Chapter 2 discusses the role played by channel participants at the manufacturer, wholesaler, and retailer levels.

Chapter 3 presents an analysis of the impact of external uncontrollable environmental factors on marketing channels.

Chapter 4, the last chapter in Part I, discusses behavioral processes in the marketing channel.