THE MANAGEMENT OF MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

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The Management of Manufacturing Systems

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Preface

Books concerned with manufacturing management usually fall into one of two main categories. Some attempt a strict systems approach at the expense of practical relevance, while others consider the various parts of the production system in isolation with little reference to the over-all objectives of the organisation. We have endeavoured to tread a path between these two extremes by writing separate chapters on the essential sub-systems of production, while considering the external and internal factors that influence their design and operation. Human factors are largely unquantifiable but any manufacturing system that is not socially, as well as economically and technically viable is unlikely to succeed. In consequence greater emphasis has been given to human aspects of production management than would have been considered necessary in the past.

This book has not been tailored to any specific syllabus, although most of its contents are applicable to the Council of Engineering Institutions' examination in Analysis of Manufacturing Systems. It should also be of value in preparing for professional examinations, such as those of the Institution of Works Managers, and to students reading in universities and polytechnics for degrees including subjects related to production management. In addition, if the practical objective has been achieved, we hope that it will be of use as a concise guide to those in industry who are involved in the increasingly difficult and vital task of production management.

We wish to thank a number of colleagues for their advice, particularly our ex-colleague, Mr A. J. Till, M.B.E., F.I.Mech.E. We should also like to thank Miss Grace M. Vine for typing the manuscript.

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