
Preface

Readers will wonder how the second edition of this book on fundamentals can be published when there already seems to be so much similar material on the market. This one truly continues to be different. As the introductory volume to the entire Practical Guide Series, it was written in the PGS spirit—with emphasis on the practical. This isn't always easy to do when dealing with fundamental concepts. The contributors to this book have succeeded, however, in finding the right balance between requisite theory and recommended application.

Another way in which this book is different is that it has a proven track record. Before becoming the introductory volume to the Practical Guide Series, it was used in a preliminary version as reference notes for an introductory course in process instrumentation given at McGill University in Montréal. This course has run continuously for more than 50 years, and the lecturers have always been practitioners. Their backgrounds have rubbed off on the course presentations and—fortunately—in this book.

Finally, this book was written by a dedicated group of professionals, many of whom are members of the Montréal chapter of ISA. A major factor in assembling all the material needed to produce the words as they are printed here was the commitment and enthusiasm of all the contributors. The reader will undoubtedly sense this throughout the book.