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The original version and first edition of this book, published in 1985 and 1991 respectively, were largely the inspiration and work of the late Ken Chandler. Ken’s objective was never to provide a comprehensive text book on coating technology but, instead, an easy to read reference for engineers, architects and others, for whom the protection of steelwork is an important, although often a comparatively minor, part of their total professional activities.

Nowadays, not only are new materials and methods being developed constantly but the increased emphasis and legislation on health, safety and environmental issues have made even more radical changes necessary in paint materials, surface preparation and paint application. It has become even more difficult for the non-specialist to keep abreast of the situation.

The sudden death of Ken Chandler in 1995 was not only a personal loss of a friend and colleague, but deprived the Industry of somebody of great integrity and very long and valuable experience. When requested to produce this new edition I was able to persuade David Deacon, somebody with similar long experience, to become co-author, this despite the many other calls on his time. Fortunately we were both able to gain the services of yet another colleague, namely Garth Cox, whose experience as a senior paint chemist for both major paint manufacturers and raw material suppliers, has been of invaluable help.

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