

Preface

With the publication of the 10th edition of *The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel* (MSTS) in 1985, the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE) assumed total responsibility for the future of this prestigious document from U. S. Steel Corp. In 1998, AISE transferred all rights for this title to The AISE Steel Foundation. Readers of this 11th edition will note the dramatic change in the book's format and presentation since its inception in 1919.

In 1995, AISE formed an MSTs Steering Committee to oversee the creation of the 11th edition, and this committee looked out at a vastly different steel industry than that of the 10th edition. Hence, a new publication concept was deemed necessary, and this concept had to be consistent with the tremendous changes in steel industry economics that had occurred during the 1980s and early 1990s. These changes were occasioned by restructuring, downsizing, and wholesale implementation of new and improved technology. In turn, these changes produced major advances in labor productivity, huge reductions in energy consumption, and vastly improved product quality and yields.

Given the backdrop of the industry's transformation, the Steering Committee in 1995 deemed a revision to the 10th edition in its current format to be impractical. Therefore, the committee decided that the 11th edition would be a series of separate volumes dealing with specific subjects.

The original plan called for five volumes to be produced; however, given the downturn that began late in 1998 in the U.S. steel industry and continued into the 21st century, the last two volumes have been indefinitely postponed. The originally planned volumes, along with their scheduled publication dates, are:

- Ironmaking Volume (1999)
- Steelmaking and Refining Volume (1998)
- Casting Volume (2003)
- Flat Products Volume (indefinitely postponed)
- Long Products Volume (indefinitely postponed)

The separate-volume concept was implemented by the selection of Volume Chairpersons, who were recognized as world leaders in their respective fields of technology. These leaders, in turn, recruited a team of top-notch authors to create the individual chapters. The leaders and expert authors, many with backgrounds in AISE and the Iron and Steel Society, came from individual steel companies, the steel industry supplier base and several universities having close associations with the steel industry. Thus, for the first time, MSTs represents a broad and diverse view of steel technology as seen from various vantage points within industry and academe.

Despite all the changes to be found in the 11th edition, the MSTS Steering Committee held on to certain traditions. One such tradition has been to provide a wide audience (or readership) within the steel industry with a basic reference containing the current practices and latest technology used in the making, shaping and treating of steel. The primary targeted readers are university students, steel producers, customers and suppliers seeking technical knowledge, information for training and technology implementation, and general technical orientation and reference. As noted by the authors of the 1st edition in 1919, “the book was written for...(those)...who are seeking self-instruction.” The 11th edition attempts to maintain that tradition by incorporating technical information at several different levels of complexity and detail, thereby offering valuable information to a wide-ranging readership.

In closing, the MSTS Steering Committee wants to personally thank all the authors who have contributed their time and expertise to make the Casting Volume a reality.

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