Robert A. Mallet

THE INFORMATIC SYSTEM

(La méthode informatique)

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Under the sub-title "Outlook and Achievements of Administration Informatics", the volume of engineer R.A. Mallet, a specialist in informatics, head of a big French software enterprise, is a fundamental work for anyone dealing with problems of enterprise management informatic systems. Edited in a fluent and attractive style, the work attracts from the very beginning not only readers of strict speciality but also any researcher or practician interested in the designing, introduction and application of modern management methods. Diagrams skilfully drawn up illustrate the whole content of the volume divided into three parts and 16 chapters to which a lexical supplement is added with the definition and explanation of 84 notions of speciality.

The first part ("from the enterprise to the man-machine system") is dealing with the drawing up of a system adapted to the realities in the enterprise. It is an eminently methodological part defining and explaining concepts, principles, methods and devices. A suggestive graph representation defines the role of informatics in the enterprise, detached from the game between the theoretical criterion of certainty, the economic factor and the technical competence of practicians.

The second part ("the enterprises and their man-machine system") of the volume is devoted to a thorough study of the structure and functioning of the system. The author tackles the problems from the positions of the user who wants to know the operating methods of the new system and its advantageousness. The passing on from the old to the new sistem, the characteristics of various enterprise activities, the efficiency of the informatic system from the point of view of the specific

character of various categories of enterprises are being minutely analysed.

The third part ("from the man-machine system to programmes") is a real treatise of technique and typology of computer programmings, thoroughly studying — as Mallet himself says —" the anatomy of the programme, the general composition and metabolism settling the relations with the outside", as well as "the physiology of the programme, that is the character and functioning of its constitutive elements". The whole work concludes with the drawing up of a new outlook on administration programming.

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