n years past most industrial operations had a lubrication engineer on staff who, while somewhat of a jack-of-all-trades, was responsible for the lubrication maintenance of industrial equipment. His skills extended well beyond changing the oil and greasing the equipment. Rather, he performed, at a rudimentary level, many of the practices that have now become the basis for today’s proactive maintenance programs.

Modern manufacturing operations must have reliable equipment to maintain stable delivery schedules and operate with the greatest overall efficiency. This reliability is a key element of overall global competitiveness. To get maximum benefit of the advanced maintenance reliability-based operational strategies, an excellent understanding of equipment lubrication is a prerequisite. The goal of this book is to demonstrate the key role of effective lubrication practices in a proactive reliability-based maintenance program and the best practices for achieving the cost reduction and the inherent resultant increase in operational reliability.

The book begins with a chapter, written by certified maintenance reliability professional Mark Castle, on Full Circle Reliability, which sets the stage for the rest of the book by demonstrating the critical role of effective lubrication in competitive operations. Subsequent chapters explore how lubricants degrade in service and the methods for detecting and measuring the extent of this degradation.

There are chapters on:
- Lubricant Cleanliness (contamination control)
- Environmental Implications of Lubricants
- Centralized Lubrication Systems—Theory and Practice
- Conservation of Lubricants and Energy
- Storage and Handling
- Used Oil Recycling

The book also covers critical elements of the reliability puzzle, Lubrication Program Development and Scheduling. Thus, this book covers from A to Z the key role of effective equipment lubrication practices in a proactive reliability-based maintenance program and the best practices for achieving maximum cost reduction and the inherent increase in reliability.

This volume was written by a peer-recognized team of expert contributors from a wide variety of industry segments. Each chapter was written by an expert both knowledgeable and active in the subject area. Thanks go to these individuals—without their expertise and hard work this work could not be possible. Thanks also must go to their employers for their support of this effort and their contribution to industry.

Because of its emphasis on the practice of lubrication engineering, this book is an excellent reference for those preparing for STLE’s Certified Lubrication Specialist® Certification examination. As such, it has been recommended for the Body of Knowledge for STLE’s Certified Lubrication Specialist Certification. This volume belongs in the reference library of all maintenance reliability professionals and other practitioners in the field.