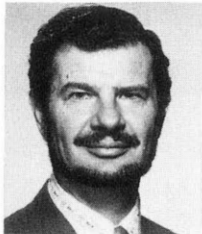


Editorial Comment

Book Reviews

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John Peter van Gigch is Professor, School of Business and Public Administration, Department of Management, California State University, Sacramento, California. He holds B.A.Sc, M. Eng. and M.B.A. degrees from Canadian universities and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University. He is the author of *Applied General Systems Theory* (Harper and Row, 1978) which is in its second edition. Russian and Spanish editions of this

work are in process. He has published widely in national and international journals such as *Behavioral Science*, *Int. Journal of Man-Machine Studies*, *Kybernetes*, *Management Science* etc. His current research is concerned with the improvement of the methodology of the social sciences, in particular with the application of systems science, the systems paradigm, the metasystem approach, fuzzy set theory and Delphi methodology to problems and failures caused by complexity and ambiguity in soft systems domains.

Professor van Gigch is a member of the Society of General Systems Research and the Institute of Management Sciences. In 1978, he spent his sabbatical as a visiting and research fellow at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. More recently he chaired a seminar on systems methodology at the Institute of Cybernetics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

I appreciate the opportunity to invite all readers to contribute to the department of *Book Reviews* which I hope can be made interesting and stimulating in the coming issues. In order to achieve this objective, I propose to review books and other publications whose spirit and content promise to make a significant contribution to HSM and to their field of inquiry. Given that I am not in a position to know all the books which are published, or to judge by myself as to their significance, I appeal to HSM readers to bring books and publications to my attention. I will endeavor to have them reviewed by scholars and experts who are in a position to understand them and to evaluate them for HSM readers.

I would like to lend this column an integrative purpose. I will try to encourage reviewers to write a survey on a particular subject — a sort of review of the literature with a bibliography — where the names of recent publications on one particular topic would be weaved in the narration. Such survey should help readers to remain current by providing them with an overview of a variety of subjects.

To achieve this aim, I would like to ask colleagues and readers to communicate with me and suggest:

- (1) Books or journal articles, papers, monographs, etc., which they believe hold potential value for HSM readers.
- (2) Subjects about which they would like to have a review prepared, with suggestions of appropriate people who might be asked to work on it.
- (3) Reviews ready for publication, in particular, annotated bibliographies of recent vintage on a subject related to the aims of HSM.
- (4) Other suggestions to improve this column. I welcome communications in other than the English language, in particular in Spanish and French.

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