Preface

This handbook is intended for engineers, technicians, and others who specify, design, test, operate, or maintain telephone systems and networks. It is the handbook I would have referred to most often if it had been available earlier in my career of engineering telecommunication switching and control systems for domestic, international, and military applications. Instead, I amassed a considerable traffic-theory library, including many formulas, tables, curves, and charts. From these I developed a family of timesaving computer programs that greatly simplified my traffic system design tasks.

The most commonly used of these diverse design resources, with examples of their use in practical applications, are now available in a single volume. Where typical values of parameters are given, they are indicative of industry practice—individual companies may use different values based on engineering requirements or policy. For those new to traffic system design, introductory information, definitions of common terms and abbreviations, and an extensive bibliography are included.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank the staff who developed and conducted the GTE Traffic Engineering School held at Norwalk, CT in 1974. The notes for that course introduced me to traffic system design and became the basis for the course I teach at Northeastern University. I must

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To Louis K. Pollen, my mentor, colleague, and friend, I extend my sincere appreciation for his guidance through the years, and my best wishes for his retirement.

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J. R. Boucher