# Preface

"My tailor is Object-Oriented". Most software systems that have been built recently are claimed to be Object-Oriented. Even older software systems that are still in commercial use have been upgraded with some OO flavors. The range of areas where OO can be viewed as a "must-have" feature seems to be as large as the number of fields in computer science. If we stick to one of the original views of OO, that is, to create cost-effective software solutions through modeling physical abstractions, the application of OO to any field of computer science does indeed make sense. There are OO programming languages, OO operating systems, OO databases, OO specifications, OO methodologies, etc. So what does a conference on Object-Oriented Programming really mean? I honestly don't know. What I do know is that, since its creation in 1987, ECOOP has been attracting a large number of contributions, and ECOOP conferences have ended up with high-quality technical programs, featuring interesting mixtures of theory and practice.

Among the 183 initial submissions to ECOOP'99, 20 papers were selected for inclusion in the technical program of the conference. Every paper was reviewed by three to five referees. The selection of papers was carried out during a two-day program committee meeting at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. Papers were judged according to their originality, presentation quality, and relevance to the conference topics. The accepted papers cover various subjects such as programming languages, types, distribution, and formal specifications.

Beside the 20 papers selected by the program committee, this volume also contains four invited papers. Three of the invited papers are from ECOOP'99 keynote speakers, C.A.R. Hoare, B. Liskov, and J. Waldo. The fourth paper is from the banquet speaker at ECOOP'98: A.P. Black.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the authors of submitted papers, the program committee members, the external referees, Romain Boichat for smoothly handling the paper printing process, and Richard van de Stadt for his excellent job in managing the electronic submissions of papers and reviews. I would also like to thank the numerous people who have been involved in the organization of ECOOP'99 and, in particular, the General Organizing Chair, Vasco Vasconcelos, the Tutorial Chair, Rui Oliveira, the Workshop Chair, Ana Moreira, the Panel Chair, Luís Caires, the Demonstration Chair, António Rito Silva, the Poster Chair, Carlos Baquero, the Exhibit Chair, Mário J. Silva, and all the volunteers for their tremendous work.

April 1999                                                      Rachid Guerraoui
                                                    ECOOP'99 Program Chair

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ECOOP'99 was organized by the Department of Computer Science of the University of Lisbon, under the auspices of AITO (Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets).

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