Preface

It is now more than twenty-five years since object-oriented programming was "invented" (actually, more than thirty years since work on Simula started), but, by all accounts, it would appear as if object-oriented technology has only been "discovered" in the past ten years! When the first European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming was held in Paris in 1987, I think it was generally assumed that Object-Oriented Programming, like Structured Programming, would quickly enter the vernacular, and that a conference on the subject would rapidly become superfluous. On the contrary, the range and impact of object-oriented approaches and methods continues to expand, and, despite the inevitable oversell and hype, object-oriented technology has reached a level of scientific maturity that few could have foreseen ten years ago.

Object-oriented technology also cuts across scientific cultural boundaries like perhaps no other field of computer science, as object-oriented concepts can be applied to virtually all the other areas and affect virtually all aspects of the software life cycle. (So, in retrospect, emphasizing just Programming in the name of the conference was perhaps somewhat short-sighted, but at least the acronym is pronounceable and easy to remember!) This year's ECOOP attracted 146 submissions from around the world — making the selection process even tougher than usual. The selected papers range in topic from programming language and database issues to analysis and design and reuse, and from experience reports to theoretical contributions.

The selection of papers was carried out during a two-day Programme Committee meeting in Geneva. All papers were reviewed in advance by at least three people. Papers were judged according to their originality, relevance and presentation quality. All papers were judged purely on their own merits, independently of other submissions. In most cases, authors of rejected papers received detailed comments on how to improve their manuscripts. In general, the quality of submissions was quite high, but we noted that many authors were making some common errors in the presentation of their results (such as not clearly demonstrating what was new or original). Authors who are in any doubt about how to prepare their papers for ECOOP are well advised to consult the excellent article by Alan Snyder in the January 1991 issue of the ACM OOPS Messenger on "How to Get Your Paper Accepted at OOPSLA." Although the article was not written with ECOOP in mind, it contains much good advice for authors submitting manuscripts to *any* conference!

This year's ECOOP is the first which is being run under the auspices of a formal international body rather than an ad hoc steering committee. AITO is the Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets (the acronym is more pronounceable in French than in English — and turns out to mean "genuine" in Finnish!), and was founded during ECOOP 92 in Utrecht by a number of people who have been involved in various ways in running previous ECOOPs. AITO not only provides a formal mechanism for ensuring the continuation of ECOOP, but it also provides a legal (non-profit) entity that can facilitate the financing of future conferences. ECOOP 94 is now planned to be held in Bologna, Italy. Bids will be considered by AITO for hosting future ECOOPs. Please direct all inquiries to the AITO president, Pierre Cointe, (Ecole des Mines de Nantes, 3 rue Marcel Sembat 44049 Nantes Cedex 04, France. E-mail: cointe@emn.fr).

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