

## Preface

This volume presents a selection of the papers read at the EURALEX International Congress held in Zürich in September 1986. Our aim was not merely to reproduce a sequence of conference manuscripts, but to present a cohesive and structured book concentrating on the major themes dealt with at the Congress. The topics cover a broad spectrum of issues ranging from semantics (Chapter I), the craft of dictionary making (Chapter II), language learning (Chapter III), historical lexicography (Chapter IV), Swiss dialect lexicography (Chapter V), bilingual lexicography and terminology (Chapter VI), to the role of the computer in dictionary making (Chapter VII), and the volume should be of interest to anyone professionally concerned with lexicography.

The authors are scholars, lexicographers, translators, teachers and publishers from 19 countries and all five continents. Their approaches and the languages discussed, which include Polish, Hungarian, Russian, Arabic, Danish, Frisian and Japanese, are as varied as the basic issues themselves, and in editing the papers I have as far as possible respected this diversity. No one language variety is made to impose on another, hence spelling conventions (as between American and British English) agree to differ as long as they are consistent within the individual papers. Titles of published dictionaries quoted in the text are printed in capitals and listed in the Bibliography at the end of the respective paper. Each contribution is printed in the language in which it was presented at the Congress. A number of the papers have been substantially revised for publication, and I would like to thank the authors for their willing cooperation, as well as the consultants, Professor Noel Osselton, Professor Gabriele Stein and Professor Francis Knowles for their helpful advice.

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