

Preface

When it comes to publishing the work of a conference there is a preliminary choice to be made: to publish all the papers or to produce a representative collection.

BudaLEX '88 was a conference rich both in quality and quantity, and the number of papers offered forced upon the reluctant Editors the need to select the published Proceedings from this wealth of material. The final choice, of 62 papers from the 108 presented, proved a very difficult task for the selection panel.

And it is at this point that the Editors are happy to take this opportunity of expressing their warmest thanks to the members of the selection panel, L. Ányos, B. T. Atkins, H. Béjoint, R. R. K. Hartmann, F. E. Knowles, N. E. Osselton, P. A. Sherwood, M. Snell-Hornby, and G. Stein for their untiring help in both assessing and then reading/checking most of the papers and commenting on them one by one. Their help has really been more than one could have expected from people who are already heavily burdened with numerous other commitments and activities.

The main concern of the Editors was to select and arrange subjects and papers so as to produce a well-balanced book.

The papers have been arranged thematically corresponding to the main sections of the conference. Within each section, they have been arranged in the alphabetical order of authors. All sections but one of the academic programme of BudaLEX are represented in this volume. 'Phraseology', despite its acknowledged importance, had to be omitted, as only two papers were submitted. On the other hand, we gladly include papers representing the section of the 'lesser known languages' such as Basque or Estonian—a new feature among EURALEX conferences.

Equally important was the need to balance languages/nationalities. The authors are lexicographers, academics and publishers from 20 countries covering some 15 languages (or language areas) ranging from Albanian to Swedish, major and minor languages alike. And what seemed to be just a dream of the organizers in 1987 when the 'call for papers' was sent out—BudaLEX *did* "offer a unique opportunity for participants from the East and from the West to strengthen professional and personal contacts and thus to lay the foundations of further exchanges and cooperation in the future". Clearly, the Editors are really glad that lexicography was among the first areas of international contact where Hungary acted as a bridge between the East and the West. Nearly one third of the papers here presented were given by lexicographers from Eastern Europe, and we trust no one can forget the friendly atmosphere of the conference at TOT in the hills of Buda.

Budapest, September 1989

The Editors