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Preface

Although the workshop “Building Environments: Lessons from the Past, Directions for the Future” whose proceedings are published here was initiated and sponsored by Ada-Europe, there is only one paper specifically about Ada Programming Support Environments (APSEs) and few other references to Ada. The reason for this is simple: the Ada community has always been in the mainstream of PSE development, as testified by the influence of the Stoneman report “Requirements for Ada Programming Support Environments” (February 1980), and there is little to say about PSEs that is particular to Ada.

Since Stoneman was published precisely ten years ago it is appropriate to compare it with our understanding today as seen through the sessions of the workshop.

- Object Management was central to Stoneman with many specialised requirements for software engineering.
- Tool Interaction was treated briefly in terms of inter-tool communication. Integration would be achieved through the object base.
- The User Interface was oriented towards the glass teletypewriters generally in use at that time - no sign of the rodent explosion.
- Process was represented by requirements for a command language and interpreter.
- Cooperative Working was not mentioned.

The Stoneman APSE covered the whole life cycle, placed a modern emphasis on configuration control and catered for project management; but there is no mention of methodologies either for the parts of the life cycle or for the whole software process.

While Stoneman laid a sound foundation it gives no hint of the major steps made over the last decade. This volume gives a good selection of these achievements.

It gives me great pleasure to thank all those who contributed to the workshop and these proceedings. They are

- **Ian Thomas**, who helped me with initial planning;
- **Klaus Dittrich**, **Erhard Ploedereder**, **Richard Taylor**, **Mike Tedd**, **Ian Thomas** and **Anthony Wasserman** for their work and inspiration on the Organising Committee in defining the programme, chairing the sessions and reviewing papers;
- **Mike Tedd**, who chaired the workshop;
- **Fred Long**, whose editorial diligence has brought these proceedings together in the form you see before you;
- **Annie Binick**, whose friendly, efficient administration ensured the smooth running of the workshop; and

- all the other participants listed elsewhere in these proceedings, making a total of 34 (18 from Europe, 15 from the USA and 1 from Japan), especially those who submitted position papers and then extended them to substantial papers for these proceedings.

Finally, I would like to thank my employer ICL, my secretary Beryl King, and my wife Eileen, who supported me throughout and who represent all the anonymous supporters of the other participants.

Hugh Davis
Ada-Europe
September 1990

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