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Dependable and Historic Computing

Essays Dedicated to Brian Randell
on the Occasion of His 75th Birthday

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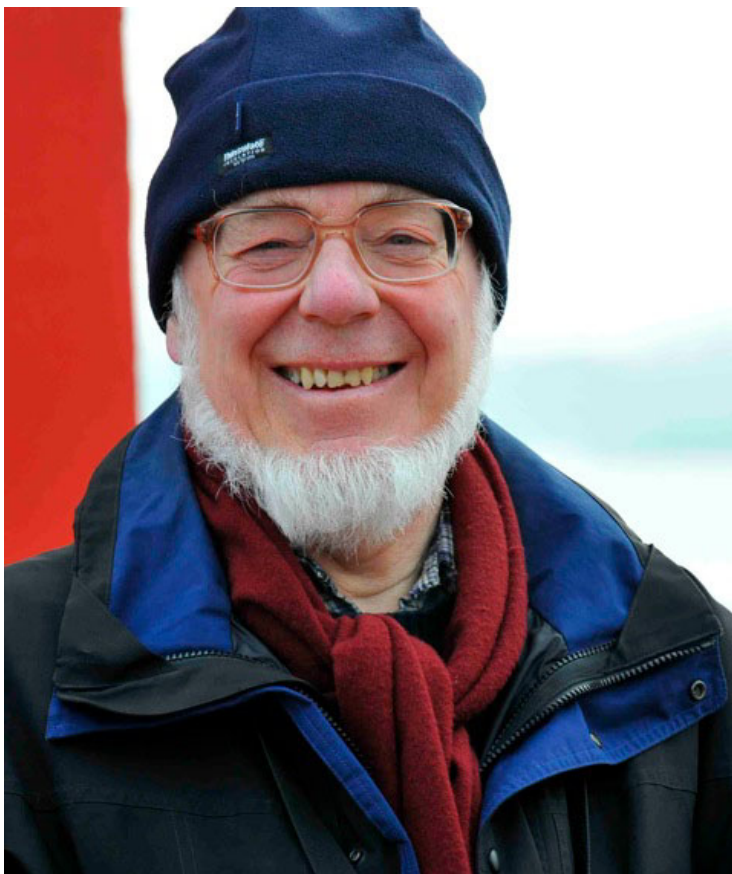
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Brian Randell

Preface

Professor Brian Randell's 75th birthday was marked by a conference during April 7–8, 2011 in Newcastle University; this *Festschrift* is a follow on from that conference.

The title of the conference was “Dependable and Historic Computing: The Randell Tales.” We chose to have extended talks by the invited speakers¹ and the corresponding papers are contained in Part B of this book. A biographical paper and the text of Professor Hermann Kopetz's after-dinner talk are contained in Part A of this *Festschrift*. We also decided to send invitations to a larger group of Brian's former scientific colleagues contribute written papers to. The overwhelmingly positive response came close to being an embarrassment and we were somewhat relieved when some of the contributions were reasonably short. Part C of this volume contains the submitted papers. (In order to get this book out in Brian's birthday year, we lost some papers due to pressing personal issues — it is hoped to collect these for publication in *The Computer Journal*.)

Although we elected to reflect Brian's interest in the history of computing in the conference itself, the submitted papers also indicate Brian's wider contributions. There are papers on software engineering, storage fragmentation, computer architecture, programming languages, dependability and even a paper that echoes Brian's love of maps.

Putting together the conference and this volume has been both easy and pleasurable. This is a direct consequence of both the respect in which Brian is held by a large community and many sincere friendships. Our thanks go to the authors who delivered timely and interesting papers. Our special gratitude goes to Roberta Velykienė who has done a tremendous job of taking many files and formats and preparing the input required by our publisher — and for dealing with both authors and editors with tact and charm. Springer was from the very beginning an enthusiastic and welcoming partner in the endeavor — as always it was a pleasure to work with Alfred Hofmann and his colleagues.

At 75, Brian remains an active and stimulating colleague who continues to inspire all around him. We wish him many more active and productive years.

July 2011

Cliff B. Jones
John L. Lloyd

¹ www.ncl.ac.uk/computing/about/history/75 provides access to an audio recording of each talk.

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