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Preface

Ten years ago, the inaugural European Conference on Computer Vision was held in Antibes, France. Since then, ECCV has been held biennially under the auspices of the European Vision Society at venues around Europe. This year, the privilege of organizing ECCV 2000 falls to Ireland and it is a signal honour for us to host what has become one of the most important events in the calendar of the Computer Vision community.

ECCV is a single-track conference comprising the highest quality, previously unpublished, contributed papers on new and original research in computer vision. This year, 266 papers were submitted and, following a rigorous double-blind review process, with each paper being reviewed by three referees, 116 papers were selected by the Programme Committee for presentation at the conference.

The venue for ECCV 2000 is the University of Dublin, Trinity College. Founded in 1592, it is Ireland's oldest university and has a proud tradition of scholarship in the Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, alike. The Trinity campus, set in the heart of Dublin, is an oasis of tranquility and its beautiful squares, elegant buildings, and tree-lined playing-fields provide the perfect setting for any conference.

The organization of ECCV 2000 would not have been possible without the support of many people. In particular, I wish to thank the Department of Computer Science, Trinity College, and its Head, Professor J. G. Byrne, for hosting the Conference Secretariat. Gerry Lacey, Damian Gordon, Niall Winters, and Mary Murray provided unstinting help and assistance whenever it was needed. Sarah Campbell and Tony Dempsey in Trinity's Accommodation Office were a continuous source of guidance and advice. I am also indebted to Michael Nowlan and his staff in Trinity's Information Systems Services for hosting the ECCV 2000 web-site. I am grateful too to the staff of Springer-Verlag for always being available to assist with the production of these Proceedings. There are many others whose help – and forbearance – I would like to acknowledge: my thanks to all.

Support came in other forms too, and it is a pleasure to record here the kind generosity of The University of Freiburg, MV Technology Ltd., and Captec Ltd., who sponsored prizes for Best Paper awards.

Finally, a word about conferences. The technical excellence of the scientific programme is undoubtedly the most important facet of ECCV. But there are other facets to an enjoyable and productive conference, facets which should engender conviviality, discourse, and interaction; my one wish is that all delegates will leave Ireland with great memories, many new friends, and inspirational ideas for future research.

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