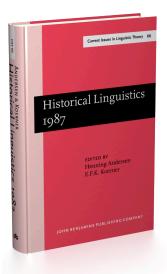
Foreword



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FOREWORD

The 8th International Conference on Historical Linguistics was held in Lille, France from 31 August to 4 September 1987 under the auspices of the Université de Lille III. The conference was organized by Professor Thomas Fraser, President of the International Society for Historical Linguistics for the term 1985-1987.

It was a highly successful meeting, both in academic terms and by the spirit of conviviality that reigned from its official opening by Monsieur Alain Lottin, President of the Université de Lille III, till the festive banquet which marked its end. As Secretary of the Society, I am pleased to have this opportunity to record here the gratitude of the participants in the conference to our hosts in Lille, Thomas Fraser, his colleagues, and the staff and students who made the meeting so enjoyable for all.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the preparation of this volume was held up for over a year after the conference. In November 1988 I volunteered to edit the conference proceedings. Unfortunately, additional delays occurred and I would hardly have succeeded in concluding this task at this date if Konrad Koerner had not offered his assistance. Konrad Koerner assumed responsibility for the French-language papers, while I edited the papers in English. We owe thanks to our assistants, Nancy Allessandra Remondi, who keyboarded most of the French papers, and Betty Brown, who helped me.

Buffalo, New York, July 1989

Henning Andersen