Preface

Computer analysis of images and patterns is a scientific field of longstanding tradition, with roots in the early years of the computer era when *electronic brains* inspired scientists. Moreover, the design of vision machines is a part of humanity's dream of the artificial person.

I remember the 2nd CAIP, held in Wismar in 1987. Lectures were read in German, English and Russian, and proceedings were also only partially written in English. The conference took place under a different political system and proved that ideas are independent of political *walls*. A few years later the Berlin Wall collapsed, and Professors Sommer and Klette proposed a new formula for the CAIP: let it be held in Central and Eastern Europe every second year. There was a sense of solidarity with scientific communities in those countries that found themselves in a state of transition to a new economy. A well-implemented idea resulted in a chain of successful events in Dresden (1991), Budapest (1993), Prague (1995), Kiel (1997), and Ljubljana (1999).

This year the conference was welcomed at Warsaw. There are three invited lectures and about 90 contributions written by more than 200 authors from 27 countries. Besides Poland (60 authors), the largest representation comes from France (23), followed by England (16), Czech Republic (11), Spain (10), Germany (9), and Belarus (9). Regrettably, in spite of free registration fees and free accommodation for authors from former Soviet Union countries, we received only one accepted paper from Russia.

Contributions are organized into sessions corresponding to the scope of the conference: image analysis (20 papers), computer vision (12), pattern recognition (12), medical imaging (10), motion analysis (8), augmented reality (4), image indexing (7), image compression (8), and industrial applications (6). Several brilliant results are presented and in my opinion the average level of quality of the contributions is high. New trends in these disciplines are well represented.

The 9th conference on *Computer Analysis of Images and Patterns* was organized at Warsaw University of Technology, in September 2001, under the auspices of its Rector, Professor Jerzy Woznicki. We appreciate the kind patronage of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR) and the Polish Association for Image Processing, the Polish Section of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and of the Institute of Radioelectronics in the Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

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Władysław Skarbek
CAIP 2001 chair

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