Preface

The First International Colloquium on Graphs and Optimization (GOI Meeting) was held on August 23–28, 1992, in Grimentz, Switzerland. It attracted over 70 participants from four continents, who attended a total of forty scientific communications on various aspects of graphs, combinatorics, optimization and heuristic methods.

The GOI Meeting, however, was not "all work, no play". The participants were treated to fine instances of swiss hospitality, including a raclette dinner, and a mountain hike under the rain. At the end of the rainbow was a celebration of the 50th birthday of Dominique de Werra and Tom Liebling, both from the Département de Mathématiques of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, one of the organizing departments for the meeting. Conference participants enthusiastically contributed to an entertaining tribute to their two dynamic and inspiring colleagues.

The absolute majority of the editors of this Volume are proud to note that, although it is a small country and does not (yet) belong to the European Community, Switzerland nevertheless is well known for its scientific contributions in Operations Research, thanks particularly to their two prominent and well appreciated colleagues, Dominique de Werra and Tom Liebling.

The papers in this Volume were presented at the GOI Meeting, or arose from discussions and interactions during the meeting. They cover a broad range of research topics from Graph Theory to Optimization, including, among other topics, hypergraphs, network reliability, partially ordered sets, combinatorial optimization and multicriteria optimization. A number of these papers present heuristic methods, among which Tabu Search plays an important role. Several papers in this Volume present applications in Production and Operations Management, in particular in the areas of scheduling and time tabling.

The GOI Meeting was organized by Alain Hertz (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Marino Widmer (Université de Fribourg) and Christian Ebenegger (Université de Genève). The organizers want to express their gratitude to the following swiss organizations, whose support made this event possible:

- École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne,
- État du Valais,
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En Suisse, Schweitz and Svizzera
O.R.'s Alpha and Omega
Are Liebling and de Werra

Who more proof demands
Should come to Grimentz
And listen to R.O.S.O.
Who's nobody Bozo
Enjoying the R.O.S.E.
Where poem meets prose.

Soon EURO's new banner
Will simply proclaim
As reason for fame
Ich bin ein Lausanner.