

From Einar Fredriksson:

Dear Wolfgang,

While we have known each other since the 60:ies, there were long gaps between our encounters. My Professor in Warsaw, Andrzej Mostowski, had a high opinion of your Professor in München, Kurt Schütte. I started as math/computer-science publishing editor at North-Holland/Elsevier in 1969, and helped setting up the Artificial Intelligence journal with Bernhard Meltzer as its Editor for the first 8 years. It was only when his American successor took over, you started to insist that the journal should continue having also a European profile.

In 1980 you became one of the non-Japanese advisors to their Fifth Generation Computer Systems program. I was invited by their JIPDEC to set up publications around it. You and I were in touch about the European attempts to match the FGCS with the EC ESPRIT program. In the early 80:ies you were instrumental in setting up ECCAI, the European Coordination Committee for AI, and I published their newsletter under your guidance. This became in 1987 the ECCAI journal AICommunications, which we still publish – in cooperation with the ECCAI successor EurAI.

For many years you were editing the DISKI series of mainly German AI dissertations for our German sister company AKA. This editorship has been recently transferred to Professor Ralph Bergmann and hopefully we can move towards a more European coverage at some stage.

Later we were collaborating on a German edition of Nils Nilsson's America-slanted AI History book, with the idea to set up some form of European AI history forum to balance the current narrative. This becomes even more important now, as China is emerging as a challenger of the American AI dominance.

Congratulating you to your 80th birthday, and wishing you and Monika many healthy and creative years ahead!

Einar Fredriksson