Acknowledgements

Looking at the acknowledgements sections of books that inspired me at the start of this project, I was always surprised by how long and how well written they were. Did the authors really talk to that many people, obtain and go through such quantities of feedback and visit that many places? If so, I thought, it must be almost impossible to write a book! Well, my acknowledgements are going to be equally long. When writing a book, you do, indeed, end up talking to many people, receive and incorporate lots of feedback, visit many places, stay at different institutions or even move countries. Alas, my acknowledgements are not going to be equally well written, because this is the last thing I need to finish before handing the final manuscript to my editor.

As a result of the unfortunate compartmentalisation of modern academia, being a computer scientist studying history and philosophy of the discipline raises some eyebrows and leads to the wrong kind of 'research outputs'. I'm grateful to my advisors, group leads and department heads who saw the value in my work and supported me over time, even if it did not fit in the usual boxes. This includes Alan Mycroft at the University of Cambridge, Richard Jones, Simon Thompson, Sally Fincher and Mark Batty at the University of Kent, and Petr Tůma at Charles University. I'm also grateful to David Corfield from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Kent who has been keen to cross the disciplinary boundary from the other side. The fact that the university administration has since decided to close down this thriving and highly ranked department remains a sad postscript to our inspiring collaboration.

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of the manuscript. The work of Dick Gabriel repeatedly reminded me that computer science does not have to be mere paradigmatic puzzle solving and served as inspiration throughout the work on the book. I'm also grateful to James Noble, Gilad Bracha, Rebbeca Wirfs-Brock and Allen Wirfs-Brock who provided interesting additional historical information and feedback on parts of the book.

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If the length of the mention in the Acknowledgements was to be proportional to the influence that a person had on my work and thinking, the next couple of pages would have to be dedicated to Liesbeth De Mol. Her thorough knowledge of the early history of programming significantly influenced my writing and her uncompromising personal commitment to honest and rigorous scholarship has been a continuous inspiration. Liesbeth also established the History and Philosophy of Computing (HaPoC) community and the collaborative Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) PROGRAMme project that have provided unique venues for thinking about the history and philosophy of computing. There is so much in this book that has been influenced by the many discussions at a HaPoC conference, History and Philosophy of Programming (HaPoP) symposium or the PROGRAMme retreats. The list of people from those communities with whom I was able to discuss the ideas leading to this book is, again, too long. Those whose work had the most direct effect on this book include Troy Astarte, Pierre Depaz, Simone Martini, David Nofre, Mark Priestley and Julian Rohrhuber. The book *A Science of Operations* by Mark Priestley gave me the first ideas about what research on the history of programming can be. The in-depth debates on programming that took place at the CEUB Bertinoro were equally influential, even if they are not visible in the References. In addition to those mentioned already, the list of those who shaped my thinking and work include Selmer Bringsjord, Maarten Bullynck, Felice Cardone, Martin Carlé, Edgar Daylight,

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