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PREFACE

The foundation of ALAGO was the result of an idea of a group of geochemists in September, 1987, during the 13th International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry organized by the European Association of Organic Geochemists in Venice, Italy.

ALAGO was created during the First Latin-American Congress on Organic Geochemistry held in Rio de Janeiro in November, 1988 with the following objectives: to congregate all professionals who are engaged in activities related to organic geochemistry in the area; to organize events-courses, seminars, congresses - for the purpose of disseminating knowledge and presenting technical and scientific papers; to foster improvement in methods of teaching organic geochemistry at all levels; to publish specialized magazines and books.

Since 1988 the Association has organized four congresses, a number of seminars and courses on Organic Geochemistry and has published the ALAGO NEWSLETTER. Now, the time has arrived for the publication of the first issue of our technical journal.

The REVISTA LATINO-AMERICANA DE GEOQUIMICA ORGANICA is committed to treating the basic and applied aspects of geochemistry and petrology of crude oils, natural gas, shales and coals from Latin-American countries.

The journal aims to stimulate the development of the science of oil and coal geology and geochemistry in the region and will publish contributions dealing with original research results, proceedings of symposia and congresses, surveys, reviews and book reviews.

The papers in this volume are intended to be of interest to a broad spectrum of readers including teachers, students and experts in applied petroleum and coal science as well as environmental geochemistry.

The editor greatly appreciates the help of C.V. Araujo and L.A.F. Trindade during the planning of this first volume. The following reviewers are thanked for their timely and incisive reviews of the papers in this volume: J. Connan, A. Davis, J.M. Hayes, R. Jaffé, W. Kalkreuth, M.R. Mello and M. Wolf.

The editor extends a deep appreciation to the contributors of this volume. Their papers are responsible for whatever merit this volume might have.

November, 1995.

Zuleika Carretta Corrêa da Silva
Editor

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