

***IV Latin American Workshop on
Magnetism, Magnetic Materials and Their Applications***

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Contributors to the

*IV Latin American Workshop on
Magnetism, Magnetic Materials and Their Applications,*

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PREFACE

The **IV Latin American Workshop on Magnetism, Magnetic Materials and Their Applications** was held in São Paulo, Brazil during the week of June 7-11, 1998. This was the fourth of a series of meetings initiated in La Habana, Cuba in 1991 and followed by Workshops in Guanajuato, México (1993) and Mérida, Venezuela (1995). A total of 111 researchers in magnetism participated in the **IV Workshop**, the largest part from Brazilian universities and laboratories. The **Workshop** fulfilled its primary goal of fostering Latin American integration with the participation of researchers from Argentina, Colombia, México, Cuba, Peru, and Venezuela.

Following the format of previous meetings, a number of invited talks were presented by leading specialists from Europe and North America, on topics such as thin films, giant magnetoresistance and magnetoimpedance, nanocrystalline materials, superconducting oxides, magneto-optics and other topics. An almost equal number of invited papers were presented by top-notch young Brazilian researchers, making a total of 20 invited papers. Another 24 papers were presented in oral form and 62 were presented as posters. A prize was given to the best poster: "EXAFS Characterization of Cobalt Nanoparticles Embedded in a Copper Matrix", presented by the student Júlio C. Cezar with collaborators H. Tolentino, M. C. Martins Alves, D. Z. Cruz, F. C. S. Silva, and M. Knobel.

The articles presented here were refereed for their scientific and technical content, in addition to editing of format and style. Although the authors are solely responsible for the veracity and accuracy of the material presented here, a small group of dedicated referees read the articles not only to check the format but also to try to help the authors communicate their ideas more clearly. This process was most successful in those cases where the author respected the conference deadlines for submission of papers. Special thanks for reading papers go to H. R. Rechenberg, V. Villas Boas, A. C. Neiva, M. V. P. Altoé, G. Goya, D. R. Cornejo, A. D. Santos, M. Knobel, F. J. G. Landgraf, W.A. Ortiz, M. S. Lancarotte, F. L. A. Machado, J. d'Albuquerque e Castro, and L. Sampaio.

A special person deserves thanks for his contributions to the **Workshop**. Iran Mamedes de Amorim proved to be an exceptionally able secretary, taking care of manuscripts, finances and other problems as they arose. Both before and after the **Workshop** his dedication was notable.

One of the most difficult problems in the organization of these meetings is clearly that of obtaining the necessary financial support. We have used the traditional sources of registration fees and sponsorship to meet our obligations. Although the list is short, the contributors on the following page were an essential ingredient in the success of this meeting.