

PREFACE

The excursion to investigate the **PETROLOGIC AND GEOCHRONOLOGIC EVOLUTION OF THE OLDEST SEGMENTS OF THE SÃO FRANCISCO CRATON, BRAZIL**, which occurred in July 1992, was the fourth in a series of field workshops designed to examine the oldest rocks on Earth under the auspices of the International Geological Correlation Programme - IGCP-Project 280, which was initiated by Alfred Kröner and Stephen Moorbath.

The organization of this workshop and the compilation of this Excursion Guide and Review Articles has only been possible through the generous financial and logistic support of several institutions, particularly Companhia Baiana de Pesquisa Mineral - CBPM, as well as Companhia de Pesquisa de Recursos Minerais - CPRM, Superintendência de Geologia e Recursos Minerais - SGM, and Instituto de Geociências da Universidade Federal da Bahia, and a large number of individuals, including U.Costa, A.M.V.Morais and J.M.Landim.

Most of the data presented here are from unpublished theses that were generously released by their authors in order to show the participants of the workshop, and the geoscientific community at large, the present state of knowledge on the oldest rocks of the São Francisco Craton.

The Editors