

Editorial Preface

Professor Carlos B. de Lyra, of the University of São Paulo, died on July 21, 1974 at the age of 46. I was in Brazil at the time, jointly at the invitation of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of São Paulo. In view of my close association, going back over many years, with Professor de Lyra, I was asked by Professors Jacy Monteiro and Chaim Hönl to act as editor of this special issue of the Boletim which would be dedicated to Lyra's memory. I am honored to be able to perform this service to my late friend.

Carlos de Lyra made extremely important contributions to algebraic topology over a number of years. However, a mere list of his published papers does not begin to do justice to the nature of his contribution to the advancement of mathematics in Brazil and in São Paulo in particular. Lyra developed extremely fruitful contacts with a number of mathematicians drawn from many countries. Indeed, all the contributors to this memorial issue are people who knew him personally and who cooperated with him. By bringing to São Paulo distinguished mathematicians to collaborate with their Brazilian colleagues, Lyra helped to overcome the relative isolation which the geography of Brazil might otherwise have imposed on her mathematicians. His untimely death is a grievous loss to mathematics both in Brazil and beyond her shores. We must hope that the inspiration which he provided to his colleagues and his students will continue to animate the spirit of Brazilian mathematics. This would be the legacy which he would wish to bequeath.

Peter Hilton