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THE BRAZILIAN REGION OF THE BIOMETRIC
SOCIETY (RBRAS)¹

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EARLY HISTORY

The Brazilian Region of the Biometric Society was founded on 8 July 1955, in Campinas (State of São Paulo), Brazil, during an international meeting of biometricians. The minutes of the Founding Meeting, written by Américo Groszmann, were signed by 25 members of the Society, of whom 15 were Brazilians and ten were foreigners. The best-known among them were: R.A. Fisher, D.J. Finney, W.G. Cochran, C.R. Rao, C.I. Bliss, W.J. Youden, A.M. Penha, Walter Leser, C.G. Fraga Jr., A. Conagin, J. M. Pompeu Memória, W.L. Stevens, Ruben Markus, P. Mello Freire, G.G. Duarte and Elza Berquão. Since there were already 45 other members of the Society in Brazil, the new Region started straight away on its organization and its work.

¹ Transcrito do Biometric Bulletin, 1989, vol. 6, nº 1.

² Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz", USP, Piracicaba.

The first President of RBras was Constantino Gonçalves Fraga Jr., from the Instituto Agrônômico de Campinas. The first Secretary was Paulo Mello Freire, and the first Treasurer was Américo Groszmann.

MEETINGS OF RBRAS

During its 32 years of existence, RBras has suffered several crises, but never stopped its work. A few Argentines and Uruguayans have joined RBras and participated in its meetings.

Among the 37 meetings of RBras so far, 36 have been held in the State of São Paulo, where the majority of its members live. The distribution of these meetings is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Campinas | 17 |
| São Paulo City | 11 |
| Piracicaba | 4 |
| Ribeirão Preto | 2 |
| Jaboticabal | 1 |
| Guarujá | 1 |
| Londrina (State of Paraná) | 1 |

The Past-Presidents of RBras are:

C.G. Fraga Jr.:

1956-58, 1964-66

F. Pimentel Gomes:

1958-60, 1966-68, 1974-76, 1980-82

A.M. Penha:

1960-62, 1969-71

P. Mello Freire:

1962-64

Elza Berquó:

1968-69

A. Conagin:

1971-73

- R. Vencovsky:
1973-74, 1976-78
A.A. Teixeira:
1978-80, 1984-86
J.G. Corrêa da Silva:
1982-84
D. Barbin:
1986-88

The current President is Clovis A. Peres, from the Instituto de Matemática e Estatística, of the University of São Paulo.

THE Xth INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC CONFERENCE

An important accomplishment of RBras was the organization of the Xth International Biometric Conference, which took place in Guarujá, Brazil, from 6 - 10 August 1979. This Conference was organized by three committees.

- Local Organizing Committee; Chair:
D. Barbin
Program Committee, Chairs:
R. Vencovsky and G.H. Freeman
Finance Committee, Chair:
F. Pimentel Gomes

During the Xth International Biometric Conference, the President of RBras was Aldir Alves Teixeira. In that meeting there were six fora and 36 sessions, at which 41 lectures and 119 papers were presented.

The Proceedings of the Xth Conference were published in 1982 by the organisation Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA) using its official languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish, French and German. They include the texts of two fora, 13 lectures and 75 papers, in 758 pages.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

On several occasions RBras has collaborated with other institutions in the commemoration of important dates in Brazilian science. From 22-27 September 1975, an international meeting of RBras, in Piracicaba, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the institute: Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz, which is attached to the University of São Paulo. Forty-four papers were given, with the participation of David J. Finney, from Scotland; Walter T. Federer, from the United States; and Maria E. Suarez, Elza Servy, P.M. Sorarrain and Rafael R. Boggio, from Argentina; as well as numerous other Brazilian scientists. The Proceedings of this meeting were published by the Cargill Foundation.

In 1978 another special session was held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Instituto Agrônomo de Campinas, with 28 read papers.

BIENNIAL SYMPOSIA

Since 1985, RBras has organized biennial Symposia on Statistics Applied to Agronomic Experiments, each in collaboration with a different host institution. The first one was held in Piracicaba in 1985; the second in Londrina, State of Paraná, in 1987. The third is planned for 1989 in Lavras, State of Minas Gerais.

For a period of twenty years (1964 to 1983) RBras published its **Boletim de Biometria**, a bulletin circulated over all Brazil, with copies sent also to neighbouring countries.

At this moment, RBras numbers 152 members, and remains the sole Region of the Biometric Society in Latin America.