



Brazilian Journal of Physics

ISSN: 0103-9733

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Sociedade Brasileira de Física
Brasil

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XXII Brazilian National Meeting on Particles and Fields (BNMPF)
Brazilian Journal of Physics, vol. 32, núm. 4, diciembre, 2002, p. 821
Sociedade Brasileira de Física
São Paulo, Brasil

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XXII Brazilian National Meeting on Particles and Fields (BNMPF)

The XXII Brazilian National Meeting on Particles and Fields, BNMPF, took place at the resort town of São Lourenço, Minas Gerais, on 22 to 26 October, as a regular meeting of a specialized annual series of the *Sociedade Brasileira de Física*. A total number of 294 researchers, including faculty members, research associates, and students, mainly from Brazil but some of them from abroad, presented and discussed their recent work in the area.

The meeting has been traditionally divided into plenary, parallel and review sessions on one hand, and oral and poster communications on the other. The present volume publishes contributions corresponding to the plenary, parallel and revision sessions. The oral and poster communications are electronically published in the official webpage of the *Sociedade Brasileira de Física* (e-address: www.sbf.if.usp.br).

The Organizing Committee thanks the invited speakers who kindly accepted the invitation, and presented excellent seminars. Also, we would especially like to thank professors Luca Amendola, Adriano Natale, Orlando Peres and Matsuo Yutaka who accepted invitations a very short time before the conference. We had in fact some late organizational problems connected with the tragic events in the United States.

As a tradition, discussions followed seminars and communications, and continued along the intervals after the sessions. Good use was made of opportunities for developing scientific collaborations, either new or in course.

The special session in honor of Professor Roberto Salmeron, a scientist with a history of dedication to the development of physics in Brazil and abroad, was particularly impressive. A group of former students under his supervision—Ruben Aldrovandi, José Maria Filardo Bassalo, Marco Antônio Raupp, and Alberto Santoro—and Rubens Freire Ribeiro, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, talked about the human and scientific trajectory of Roberto Salmeron. Besides the speeches, a letter sent by José Mariano Gago—former student of Salmeron and presently Minister of Science and Technology of Portugal—read by professor Santoro, brought a vivid testimony on Salmeron's vibrant action and character. We finally heard from Professor Salmeron himself a clear, as well as emotive, description of historical facts in Brazilian science, in which he has fully participated.

A nice science-popularization lecture was delivered by professor Ioav Waga, under the title *The universe in expansion*, which was attended by researchers and a crowd of local young students, clearly moved by their interest in science.

The XXII BNMPF was organized by the following committee: Carlos Alberto S. Almeida, Leandro S. de Paula (coordinator), Marcos Maia, Maria Beatriz Gay Ducati, Nivaldo Lemos, Reinaldo Camargo Rigitano, Rubens Freire Ribeiro, Vicente Pleitez, and Victor Rivelles. This committee received full support from the following members of the administrative staff of the *Sociedade Brasileira de Física*: Eliana Maria Alves (financial support), Fernando Luiz Braga (computer services), Neusa M. Lucas Martin (publications), and Roberto Carvalho Pereira (organizational support). The XXII BNMPF received financial support from CNPq, CAPES, CLAF, FAPERJ and FAPESP. Professor Barbara Jacak travelled from the United States with financial support from her home institution. Professor Barry Barish received support from the Brazilian 'Schoenberg Project' for detection of gravitational waves. Professor Matsuo Yutaka was on leave from his institution. We express our gratitude to all of them.

Reinaldo Rigitano
on behalf of the Organizing Committee
July 2002