

PROLOGUE

Comunicaciones N° 52 is a special issue containing the short abstracts of papers presented at the **III South American Symposium on Isotope Geology (III SSAGI)**, held in Pucón (Chile), during October 21-24, 2001. This Symposium, which takes place every two years in a different country of the South American continent, has been organized on this occasion by the Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería de Chile (SERNAGEOMIN) and the Departamento de Geología of the Universidad de Chile, with the sponsorship of the Sociedad Geológica de Chile. Among its principal objectives are to demonstrate the state of knowledge in Geochronology and Isotope Geology, especially in their contribution to the scientific understanding of the South American continent.

The presented papers of the Symposium were arranged into six thematic areas: (1) Methodology, thermochronology, and geochronology; (2) Evolution of cratonic South America; (3) Magmatic processes; (4) Environmental geology, hydrogeology, isotopic stratigraphy and paleoclimatology; (5) Economic geology; and (6) Evolution of the Andean margin of South America. In addition, four invited keynote presentations complemented the scientific sessions of the III SSAGI.

The process of edition of the abstracts, published in their extended form in electronic format on CD (available from the Sociedad Geológica de Chile at www.sociedadgeologica.cl) and in abbreviated form in this special volume of the Comunicaciones, was the responsibility of the Editorial Committee of the Symposium. Nevertheless, the specific content, ideas and conclusions presented in each of the abstracts contained in this volume are the exclusive responsibility of the respective authors.

The Organizing Committee of the III SSAGI is grateful to the participants of the symposium for their excellent response, which is expressed in the quantity and quality of the papers presented.

Organizing Committee of the III SSAGI