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PREFACE

This dissertation is the logical culmination of a long standing interest in climatology which started in 1950 when the author was an undergraduate. In more recent years he developed a special interest in Mexico and discovered soon that American - as well as European - meteorologists has shown little research interest in our largest and nearest neighbor to the south. This study is considered to be one in dynamic climatology and the research has grown partly out of recognition of the need for more complete and accurate explanations by geographers in climatology. This is considered to be a pilot study in the subjects of Mexican climatology as well as dynamic climatology. It should lead to further and more detailed studies of tropical and subtropical climatology in the American realm.

Synoptic information and data are considered to be the basic raw material of this study. Since average conditions do not usually explain reality, attention has been given to both periodic and non-periodic situations. Three-dimensional changes within the atmosphere have necessarily been dealt with since the surface chart and situation is an incomplete representation of the atmosphere.

Some of the descriptions presented contain an element of subjectivity but they have been held to a bare minimum. It should be emphasized that the regional units as shown in the appendix maps do not represent anything more than convenient units for handling the subject matter. Many of the phenomena and relationships described are in need of detailed and precise mapping, correlation, and analysis. The types of general description and analyses which have been given are probably quite adequate for the size of territory involved and for the purposes

of this study. However, for the more thorough requirements of a study of any small-sized territory or for a complete study of an individual month, it would be necessary to make refinements in both data and method.

The system of reference notation which is used in this dissertation was formerly not commonly used but it is one which is beginning to gain some favor in recent years. It consists of citing the author or source followed by the number of the complete reference given in the bibliography in the end of the dissertation.