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## NOTICE TO READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Since its inception, the basic purpose of *RADIOCARBON* has been the publication of compilations of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates produced by various laboratories. These lists are extremely useful for the dissemination of basic  $^{14}\text{C}$  information.

In recent years, *RADIOCARBON* has also been publishing technical and interpretative articles on all aspects of  $^{14}\text{C}$ . We would like to encourage this type of publication on a regular basis. In addition, we will be publishing compilations of published and unpublished dates along with interpretative text for these dates on a regional basis. Authors who would like to compose such an article for his/her area of interest should contact the Managing Editor for information.

Other sections recently added to our regular issues include NOTES AND COMMENTS, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, RADIOCARBON UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS. Authors are invited to extend discussions or raise pertinent questions to the results of scientific investigations that have appeared on our pages. These sections include short, technical notes to relay information concerning innovative sample preparation procedures. Laboratories may also seek assistance in technical aspects of radiocarbon dating. Book reviews are also encouraged as are advertisements.

*Manuscripts.* Papers may now be submitted on both floppy diskettes and hard copy. When submitting a manuscript, include three hard copies, double-spaced. When the final copy is prepared after review, please provide a floppy diskette along with one hard copy. We will accept, in order of preference, WordPerfect 5.1 or 5.0, Microsoft Word, Wordstar or any IBM word-processing software program. ASCII files, MS DOS and CPM formatted diskettes, are also acceptable. The diskettes should be either 3½" (720 k or 1.44 megabytes) or 5¼" (360 k or 1.2 megabytes). Radiocarbon papers should follow the recommendations in INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS (this issue). Offprints are available upon request. Because Volume 34 is full, our deadline schedule for submitting manuscripts is:

<i>For</i>	<i>Date</i>
Vol. 35, No. 1, 1993	September 1, 1992
Vol. 35, No. 2, 1993	January 1, 1993
Vol. 35, No. 3, 1993	May 1, 1993

*Half-life of  $^{14}\text{C}$ .* In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference, Cambridge, England, 1962, all dates published in this volume (as in previous volumes) are based on the Libby value, 5568 yr, for the half-life. This decision was reaffirmed at the 11th International Radiocarbon Conference in Seattle, Washington, 1982. Because of various uncertainties, when  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements are expressed as dates in years BP, the accuracy of the dates is limited, and refinements that take some but not all uncertainties into account may be misleading. The mean of three recent determinations of the half-life,  $5730 \pm 40$  yr, (*Nature*, 1962, v. 195, no. 4845, p. 984), is regarded as the best value presently available. Published dates in years BP can be converted to this basis by multiplying them by 1.03.

*AD/BC Dates.* In accordance with the decision of the Ninth International Radiocarbon Conference, Los Angeles and San Diego, California, 1976, the designation of AD/BC, obtained by subtracting AD 1950 from conventional BP determinations is discontinued in *RADIOCARBON*. Authors or submitters may include calendar estimates as a comment, and report these estimates as cal AD/BC, citing the specific calibration curve used to obtain the estimate. Calibrated dates will now be reported as "cal BP" or "cal AD/BC" according to the consensus of the Twelfth International Radiocarbon Conference, Trondheim, Norway, 1985.

*Measuring of  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ .* In Volume 3, 1961, we endorsed the notation  $\Delta$  (Lamont VIII, 1961) for geochemical measurements of  $^{14}\text{C}$  activity, corrected for isotopic fractionation in samples and in the NBS oxalic-acid standard. The value of  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  that entered the calculation of  $\Delta$  was defined by reference to Lamont VI, 1959, and was corrected for age. This fact has been lost sight of, by editors as well as by authors, and recent papers have used  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  as the observed deviation from the standard. At the New Zealand Radiocarbon Dating Conference it was recommended to use  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  only for age-corrected samples. Without an age correction, the value should then be reported as percent of modern relative to 0.95 NBS oxalic acid (Proceedings of the 8th Conference on Radiocarbon Dating, Wellington, New Zealand, 1972). The Ninth International Radiocarbon Conference, Los Angeles and San Diego, California, 1976, recommended that the reference standard, 0.95 NBS oxalic acid activity, be normalized to  $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -19\text{‰}$ .

In several fields, however, age corrections are not possible.  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  and  $\Delta$ , uncorrected for age, have been used extensively in oceanography, and are an integral part of models and theories. For the present, therefore, we continue the editorial policy of using  $\Delta$  notations for samples not corrected for age.

## CONTENTS

## FROM THE EDITORS

ACL - East	
<i>Austin Long</i> .....	iii
A View from the West	
<i>Rénee Kra</i> .....	iv

## ARTICLES

Isotope Dating of Pleistocene Dung Deposits From the Colorado Plateau, Arizona and Utah	
<i>Jim I. Mead and Larry D. Agenbroad</i> .....	1
AMS Dating of a Late Quaternary Tephra at Graham's Terrace, New Zealand	
<i>Richard Gillespie, A. P. Hammond, K. M. Goh, P. J. Tonkin, D. C. Lowe</i> <i>R. J. Sparks and Gavin Wallace</i> .....	21
AMS Dating of Alluvial Sediments on the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales, Australia	
<i>Richard Gillespie, I. P. Prosser, Edward Dlugokencky, R. J. Sparks</i> <i>Gavin Wallace and J. M. A. Chappell</i> .....	29
Benzene Purity Correction in High-Precision Radiocarbon Dating	
<i>F. G. McCormac</i> .....	37

## DATE LISTS

HAR	Harwell Radiocarbon Measurements XI	
	<i>M. A. Hardiman, J. E. Fairchild and G. Longworth</i> .....	47
IRPA	Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique Radiocarbon Dates XIV	
	<i>Michèle Dauchot-Déhon and Mark Van Strydonck</i> .....	71
ISGS	Illinois State Geological Survey Radiocarbon Dates X	
	<i>Chao-Li Liu, D. L. Asch, B. W. Fisher and D. D. Coleman</i> .....	83
ROME	Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Rome Radiocarbon Dates I	
	<i>Gilberto Calderoni and Vincenzo Petrone</i> .....	105
RT	Rehovot Radiocarbon Measurements IV	
	<i>Israel Carmi and Dror Segal</i> .....	115
ÚGRA	University of Granada Radiocarbon Dates VI	
	<i>Cecilio González-Gómez</i> .....	133
WIS	University of Wisconsin Radiocarbon Dates XXVII	
	<i>Christine A. Prior and Lori F. Phelps</i> .....	141
Z	Rudjer Bošković Institute Radiocarbon Measurements XII	
	<i>Dušan Šrdoč, Nada Horvatinčić, Ines Krajcar Bronić, Bogomil Obelić and</i> <i>Adela Sliepčević</i> .....	155

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS .....	177
RADIOCARBON UPDATES .....	187
LETTER TO THE EDITORS .....	188