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**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON INTERCOMPARISON OF  
RADIOCARBON LABORATORIES**

GLASGOW, 12–15 SEPTEMBER 1989

A workshop will be held in Glasgow in September, 1989 on the topic of the Inter-Comparison of Radiocarbon Laboratories. The meeting will be hosted by the University of Glasgow, Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre and the NERC  $^{14}\text{C}$  laboratory at East Kilbride. The scientific programme of the workshop will cover previous and current intercomparison studies of radiocarbon laboratories, as well as future developments in this field.

Further details of the workshop can be obtained from Dr EM Scott, Department of Statistics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QW, Scotland.

## AMS GEOSCIENTIST

Purdue University is upgrading its Tandem Accelerator to establish a research center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS). This instrument will mainly analyze  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{129}\text{I}$ ,  $^{41}\text{Ca}$ ,  $^{10}\text{Be}$ ,  $^{26}\text{Al}$ , and  $^{14}\text{C}$  to solve scientific problems in Solid Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Professor David Elmore has joined the Physics Department to help establish this facility and substantial start-up funds have been provided.

Purdue's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences seeks a well-established geoscientist whose research involves isotopes that can be analyzed by AMS. We especially seek applicants with AMS-related experience in hydrology, surficial processes, climatology, physical geography or biogeochemical cycles who have demonstrated an ability to obtain external funding.

The successful applicant will teach courses in his/her specialty, have essentially unlimited access to the facility, and assume a major role in directing overall research-and-development priorities. Rank and salary for this faculty position will depend on qualifications.

Send vita, statement of AMS-related research and experience, and names of three references to: Dr. Steven J. Fritz, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907. Screening will commence on May 1 and will continue until the position is filled. Purdue University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
THE FIRST IGBP SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE  
on  
GLOBAL CHANGES OF THE PAST**

The condition of the global environment of the past can be observed in ice cores and tree rings, in ocean and lake sediments as well as in terrestrial deposits and pollen records. This opportunity to study global change of the past has provided compelling new evidence for linkages among the life processes and the physical and chemical conditions of the Earth system. In studying global change, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) will depend on these invaluable records in order to better understand the causes and effects of contemporary changes.

The Special Committee for the IGBP decided at its meeting in Stockholm (October 1988), following the first meeting of the IGBP Scientific Advisory Council, to give particular emphasis to research into records of the past global change by charging the first of the programme's Scientific Steering Committees with project development in this area. This project will encompass the past 150,000 years to include a full glacial-interglacial cycle. Particular studies will focus in greater detail on changes which have occurred during the Holocene (10,000 years BP), and especially during the past 1000 years, when the human perturbation to the Earth system began to take on global proportions. Terms of reference for this new committee will include:

- 1) assessing the possible contributions of planned or existing national and international efforts, including those of, for instance, the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), as they pertain to the underlying themes and objectives of the IGBP;
- 2) developing, within one year of appointment, plans for an initial multi-technique core IGBP project for coordinated field activities focussed on the IGBP themes and objectives; and
- 3) initiating, within two years of appointment, pilot segments of this project.

Chairing the new Scientific Steering Committee is Professor Hans Oeschger of the Department of Physics, University of Berne, Sidlerstrasse 5, CH-3012, Switzerland. Tel (+41-31) 65 44 05.

Further information can also be obtained from the IGBP Secretariat, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Box 50005, S-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel (+46-8) 16 64 48, fax (46-8) 16 64 05, telex 17509 IGBP S.

## A CHRONOLOGICAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL RADIOCARBON CONFERENCES

1. Godwin, Harry, 1954, Carbon-14 dating symposium, 1st, Copenhagen, Sept 1–4: *Nature*, v 174, p 868.
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3. Johnson, Frederick, Arnold, James, and Flint, R F, 1957, International conference on radiocarbon dating, 3rd, Andover, Massachusetts, Oct 1–4: *Science*, v 125, p 240.
4. Godwin, Harry, 1959, Carbon-dating conference, 4th, Groningen, Sept 14–19: *Nature*, v 184, p 1365–1366.
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10. Stuiver, Minze and Kra, Renee, eds, 1980, International radiocarbon conference, 10th, Proc, Bern/Heidelberg, Aug 19–26, 1979: *Radiocarbon*, v 22, nos. 2–3, p 131–1016.
11. Stuiver, Minze and Kra, Renee, eds, 1983, International radiocarbon conference, 11th, Proc, Seattle, Washington, June 21–26, 1982: *Radiocarbon*, v 25, no. 2, p 171–796.
12. Stuiver, Minze and Kra, Renee, eds, 1986, International radiocarbon conference, 12th, Proc, Trondheim, Norway, June 24–28, 1985: *Radiocarbon*, v 28, nos. 2A and 2B, p 175–1030.
13. Long, Austin and Kra, Renee, eds, 1989, International radiocarbon conference, 13th, Proc, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, June 20–25, 1988: *Radiocarbon*, v 31, no. 3, in press.

*Editors note:* I have noticed, over the years, the need to document the history of radiocarbon conferences. Thus, I have compiled a guide which should prove helpful to our readers and contributors, especially in preparing references for articles—Renee Kra.

VOLUME 9 , NUMBER 3—1989

Editor: ROGER W. MOELLER

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*Marcel Kornfeld*

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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 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 of radiocarbon papers should follow the recommendations in *Suggestions to Authors\** and *RADIOCARBON* Style Guide (R, 1984, v 26, p 152–158). Our deadline schedule for submitting manuscripts is:

| <i>For</i>          | <i>Date</i>  |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Vol 32, No. 1, 1990 | Sept 1, 1989 |
| Vol 32, No. 2, 1990 | Jan 1, 1990  |
| Vol 32, No. 3, 1990 | May 1, 1990  |

*Half life of  $^{14}\text{C}$ .* In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference, Cambridge, 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, v 195, no. 4845, p 984, 1962), 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, 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.

*Meaning 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 8th Conference on Radiocarbon Dating, Wellington, New Zealand, 1972). The Ninth International Radiocarbon Conference, Los Angeles and San Diego, 1976, recommended that the reference standard, 0.95 times 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.

\**Suggestions to Authors of the Reports of the United States Geological Survey*, 6th ed, 1978, Supt of Documents, U S Govt Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

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