

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Half life of C^{14} . 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, 5570 ± 30 yr,** for the half life. This decision was reaffirmed at the H^3 and C^{14} Conference, Pullman, Washington, 1965. Because of various uncertainties, when C^{14} measurements are expressed as dates in years B.P. the dates are arbitrary, and refinements that take some but not all uncertainties into account may be misleading. As stated in Professor Harry Godwin's letter to *Nature* (v. 195, no. 4845, p. 984, September 8, 1962), the mean of three new determinations of the half life, 5730 ± 40 yr, is regarded as the best value now obtainable. Published dates can be converted to this basis by multiplying them by 1.03.

A.D./B.C. dates. As agreed at the Cambridge Conference in 1962, A.D. 1950 is accepted as the standard year of reference for all dates, whether B.P. or in the A.D./B.C. system.

Meaning of δC^{14} . In Volume 3, 1961, we indorsed the notation Δ (Lamont VIII, 1961) for geochemically interesting measurements of C^{14} activity, corrected for isotopic fractionation in samples and in the NBS oxalic-acid standard. The value of δC^{14} that entered the calculation of Δ was defined by reference to Lamont VI, 1959, and **was corrected for age.** This fact has been lost sight of, by the editors as well as by authors, and recent papers have used δC^{14} as the **observed** deviation from the standard. This is of course the more logical and self-explanatory meaning, and cannot be abandoned now without confusion; moreover, except in tree-ring-dated material, it is rarely possible to make an age correction that is independent of the C^{14} age. In the rare instances where Δ or δC^{14} are used for samples whose age is both appreciable and known, we assume that authors will take special care to make their meaning clear; reference to " Δ as defined by Broecker and Olson (Lamont VIII)" is not sufficient to do this.

Radiocarbon Measurements: Comprehensive Index, 1950-1965. This index, covering all published C^{14} measurements through Volume 7 of RADIOCARBON, and incorporating revisions made by all laboratories, has been published. It is available at ten dollars U.S. per copy. The Index will be sent to all subscribers to RADIOCARBON, together with the bill, unless our office is informed that a subscriber does not wish to purchase it.

Expanded publication. Volume 10 and subsequent volumes will be published in two semi-annual issues, in February and in July, with deadlines for manuscripts on 1 September and 1 January.

New member. Professor J. Gordon Ogden III, Ohio Wesleyan University, has joined the editorial staff. For Volume 10, he has assumed the duties of Professor Deevey, who is on leave with the National Science Foundation.