

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The 20th International Radiocarbon Conference was held in the beautiful location of Kailua-Kona on the east coast of the Island of Hawaii, locally called the Big Island of Hawaii. The relaxing atmosphere soon melded into the conference, and this was a very successful meeting. Sessions were held in a wide variety of fields related to radiocarbon studies, other radionuclide measurements, and instrumental developments. The conference highlighted archaeological applications, bone dating and chemistry, accelerator mass spectrometry, and regional studies related to the Pacific region and Eurasian archaeology. We also had presentations about the 2009 International Radiocarbon Calibration, as well as calculation and modeling methods using Bayesian and other types of analyses. Other topics of interest included marine studies, soils and sediments, groundwater and freshwater studies, and radionuclides tracers. Two invited talks from Rich Muller and Erle Nelson, pioneers in the AMS field, were very well received. Articles based on the oral presentations begin the proceedings volume. The variety of topics shows the broad range of applications of radiocarbon studies and other radionuclide studies. We also learned of further developments in instrumentation, such as smaller accelerator systems.

As chair of the conference, I would like to thank all my colleagues at Arizona who assisted in this very successful meeting and its associated field trips. The pre-conference field trip visited the lava flows of Kilauea at the south end of the Big Island. We had an excellent tour to the Kilauea Volcano as part of our mid-conference field trip and a banquet in Hilo. We would like to thank Frank Truesdale of the US Geological Survey for all his assistance on our field trip.

Clearly, the field is in good health and we are all looking forward to the next meeting, the 21st International Radiocarbon Conference in Paris, to be held in the spring of 2012 and organized by Christine Hatté and her colleagues from LSCE and CEA.

A J Timothy Jull

Editor





