

Radiocarbon

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CALIBRATION ISSUE



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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}C dates produced by various laboratories. These lists are extremely useful for the dissemination of basic ^{14}C information.

In recent years, Radiocarbon has also been publishing technical and interpretative articles on all aspects of ^{14}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 In addition, we will be publishing compilations of published and unpublished dates along with interpretative text for these dates on a regional basis.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.

Another section is added to our regular issues, "Notes and Comments." Authors are invited to extend discussions or raise pertinent questions to the results of scientific investigations that have appeared on our pages. The section includes short, technical notes to relay information concerning innovative sample preparation procedures. Laboratories may also seek assistance in technical aspects of radiocarbon dating. Book reviews will also be included for special editions.

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:

For	Date
Vol 29, No. 1, 1987	Sept 1, 1986
Vol 29, No. 2, 1987	Jan 1, 1987
Vol 29, No. 3, 1987	May 1, 1987

Half life of ^{14}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, 5570 ± 30 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}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 ± 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 Δ (Lamont VIII, 1961) for geochemical measurements of ^{14}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 Δ 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 $\delta^{14}\text{C} = -19\text{‰}$.

In several fields, however, age corrections are not possible. $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ and Δ , 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 Δ 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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The Proceedings of the Twelfth International Radiocarbon Conference, Vol 28, Nos. 2A and 2B, 1986 are \$60.00. No. 2B, the Special Calibration Issue, is available separately for \$30.00. The full subscription for 1986 which includes the Proceedings is \$80.00 (institutions) and \$60.00 (individuals). The Proceedings of the Eleventh International Radiocarbon Conference, Vol 25, No. 2, 1983 are \$50.00, and the Proceedings of the Tenth International Radiocarbon Conference, Vol 22, Nos. 2 and 3, 1980 are \$60.00.

Back issues and price lists may be obtained from the office of RADIOCARBON.

All correspondence and manuscripts should be addressed to the Managing Editor, RADIOCARBON, Kline Geology Laboratory, Yale University, 210 Whitney Ave, PO Box 6666, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.

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Illustrations should include explanation of symbols used. Copy that cannot be reproduced cannot be accepted; it should be capable of reduction to not more than 10 by 17.5, all lettering being at least 1/6 inch high after reduction. When necessary, one large map or table can be accepted, if it will not exceed 17.5 inches in width after reduction. Line drawings should be in black India ink on white drawing board, tracing cloth, or coordinate paper printed in blue and should be accompanied by clear ozalids or reduced photographs for use by the reviewers. Photographs should be positive prints. Photostatic and typewritten material cannot be accepted as copy for illustrations. Plates (photographs) and figures (line drawings) should each be numbered consecutively through each article, using arabic numerals. If two photographs form one plate, they are figures A and B of that plate. All measurements should be given in SI (metric units).

Citations. A number of radiocarbon dates appear in publications without laboratory citation or reference to published date lists. We ask that laboratories remind submitters and users of radiocarbon dates to include proper citation (laboratory number and date-list citation) in all publications in which radiocarbon dates appear.

Radiocarbon Measurements: Comprehensive Index, 1950-1965. This index covers all published ^{14}C measurements through Volume 7 of RADIOCARBON, and incorporates revisions made by all laboratories. It is available to all subscribers to RADIOCARBON at \$20.00 US per copy.

List of laboratories. The comprehensive list of laboratories at the end of each volume appears in the third number of each volume. Changes in names or addresses should be reported to the Managing Editor by May 1.

Annual Index. All dates appear in index form at the end of the third number of each volume. Authors of date lists are asked to supply indexed material of archaeological samples only with their date lists.

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