

PREFACE

Plans for this SUPPLEMENT were substantially complete by April 1958, and a printed announcement of the fact was sent to all laboratories known to us to be engaged in the measurement of natural radiocarbon. The first major date list published outside the pages of *Science* and the *New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology* was that of Olson and Broecker, printed, as proof of our intention and as an example of the preferred style, in the January 1959 issue (Volume 257, Number 1) of AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, and reprinted here with pagination unchanged. Other papers, accepted as late as March 15, 1959, are published here for the first time. Papers submitted by January 1, 1960 will be considered for Volume 2 of the SUPPLEMENT, scheduled for publication in May 1960. For the present a single annual volume is planned.

We hope that the SUPPLEMENT will serve henceforth as the medium for primary publication of all radiocarbon measurements, or at least of radiocarbon date lists. If necessary to insure completeness, we will consider republication of date lists that may be published elsewhere in the future. A checklist of all earlier date lists, assembled by Frederick Johnson, is printed in this volume; additions and corrections for it should be called to our attention.

As readers and as users of dates we have found many published descriptions to be so deficient in information as to make the dates nearly worthless. As editors we have tried to improve the standards of presentation, but we realize that we have succeeded only partially, and we would welcome suggestions for further improvement. So far as possible, the form, kind, and quantity of information required have been worked out in collaboration with Radiocarbon Dates Association, Inc., of Andover, Massachusetts, so that descriptions of samples can be transferred with minimum effort to the punch-cards distributed by that organization. We ask the authors of date lists to follow the *Instructions to Contributors* printed on the inside front cover of this SUPPLEMENT, and we expect them to be responsible for obtaining adequate information from those who submitted the samples.

There is, of course, no objection to the republication of dates with fuller discussion in articles in other journals, and material published here may be used by geologists, archaeologists, and others without restriction of any kind. We anticipate that many dates, released by laboratories to interested persons, will appear in many places, sometimes before they are formally printed in the SUPPLEMENT or on the punch-cards. We consider, however, that the release of such dates in advance of publication constitutes a "private communication" and should be treated as such by authors and editors. In particular, quotation of such dates without attribution to the laboratory concerned, without sample number, or without description of any kind, we consider as irresponsible as it is confusing.

The Editors of AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE join us in acknowledging the generous action of the National Science Foundation in awarding Grant No. G-6548, which makes it possible to offer this SUPPLEMENT as a service to all interested in radiocarbon.

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