

FROM THE EDITORS

ACL - EAST

The Tucson conference is behind us and the Glasgow conference ahead. One item that will likely be on the agenda of the business meeting in Glasgow is the future of the Association of Carbon-14 Laboratories (ACL). Despite the fact that the only activities of this nascent organization are distribution of this journal to laboratories that have no access to US dollars and donations to colleagues to cover travel expenses to conferences, an overriding aversion to organizations within the radiocarbon community has thwarted endorsement. I hope that by the time of the Glasgow meeting, most will realize that the ACL poses no threat to their individuality or bank accounts, but that directors of the several ^{14}C laboratories that receive free copies of *RADIOCARBON* are genuinely grateful.

Meanwhile, during this interlude between International Radiocarbon meetings, according to a letter that some of us received from Professor J.-M. Punning, delegates from several Eastern European laboratories convened in Tallinn (November 1991) to form an Eastern European ACL. Their stimulus for creating this organization was the ACL discussions in Tucson. Their purpose in existence is stated below in six points:

1. Render mutual methodological air to its members in fundamental and applied scientific research
2. Exchange information about the scientific and methodological achievements of association members
3. Carry out calibrations in the form of exchange of standard and cross-check samples
4. Elaborate projects and provide peer reviews on them
5. Establish a regional data bank
6. Publish results of projects.

The Eastern European ACL will organize seminars and conferences, and will help with publication of collections and periodicals. Members will regularly exchange publications. The association will keep a list of addresses and personnel in all active ^{14}C laboratories in the region.

Membership will be contingent on acceptance by the Presiding Board and other members, and a yet unspecified annual fee will be accepted.

Promotion of these objectives can hardly be termed controversial, so I list them without further comment. It may be useful, however, to discuss the relationship between the neophyte ACL discussed in Tucson, and the ACL newly formed in Tallinn. I welcome your comments.

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