

FROM THE EDITOR

As I write my first comments here as editor of *RADIOCARBON*, I am reminded that this journal is an important part of the culture of the scientists who consider themselves “radiocarbon-dating specialists” and “cosmogenic isotope experts”, as well as those who use these measurements to interpret their own studies, whether in archaeological, geological or other sciences.

The last few years have seen major changes in the personnel at the journal, the most recent being the departure of David Sewell as managing editor. David has moved to the University of Virginia, where he has accepted an editorial position. Hence, the editor finds himself in the midst of further changes. I am lucky to have found that my two colleagues, George Burr and Warren Beck, were agreeable to take on the new roles of “associate editors”. We are also happy to announce that Kim Elliott will take over as managing editor. We have also made some new appointments to our editorial board to better reflect a balance of conventional radiocarbon, AMS, and new applications amongst the board. The new board will meet at the 17th International Radiocarbon Conference in Jerusalem in June 2000.

Various events have prompted us to re-evaluate the journal’s financial position, and I can now report more comfortably than I could earlier this month that *RADIOCARBON*’s financial position is on the mend. With both the generous support of some of our most reliable “Friends of *RADIOCARBON*” and the support of the university, we are in a better position to face the new millennium with a viable as well as highly respected scientific journal. However, we still need the continued financial and moral support of our readers, as well as your support in keeping *RADIOCARBON* as a quality scientific journal. This can only be done by publishing some of the best aspects of our science in this valuable journal.

The past, is therefore, but prologue. What of *RADIOCARBON* in the next millennium? We find ourselves facing many issues. Some encourage electronic publication as the wave of the future. This is an avenue we are currently exploring, although we are also committed to continuing a hard-copy version of the journal. We also hope to encourage the submission of more diverse papers to *RADIOCARBON*. In particular, submissions on other cosmogenic isotopes, new applications of radiocarbon, and discussion of interesting controversies in the field are all welcome. Small date lists are not excluded at this time, but we eventually hope to divert date lists of any size into the electronic version of the journal. I have looked over recent papers that have been submitted to *RADIOCARBON*, and I am delighted to tell you that we have some fascinating papers to appear in forthcoming issues.

The year 2000 will also bring two special issues, the first is dedicated to our dear friend and former managing editor, Renee Kra. Renee ran this journal with a particular spirit and energy from 1968 to 1996. We hope the issue will be a suitable tribute to her. The issue should be available in advance of the 2000 Radiocarbon Conference. Our second special issue, edited by Hans van der Plicht, will focus on possible new calibration records, such as varved sediments and speleothems. A third project in 2000–2001 will be the Proceedings of the 17th International Radiocarbon Conference. I look forward to meeting new and old friends alike at that meeting.

In closing, I would like to end on a personal note. For a successful journal, it is not sufficient to just stay the course. We need new ideas, suggestions, and lots of advice. In order to facilitate that, both the associate editors and I will listen to any suggestions, comments, advice, and complaints from you, the reader. Please feel free to send us your comments by e-mail, fax, or the postal service. We will try to give a thoughtful reply to all of them. Above all, please continue to consider *RADIOCARBON* as *your* place to publish original work on the applications of ^{14}C and cosmogenic isotopes, to problems of chronology, and the development of natural systems.

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