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RADIOCARBON

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Editors

RICHARD FOSTER FLINT — J. GORDON OGDEN, III
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Manuscripts of radiocarbon papers should follow the recommendations in *Suggestions to Authors*, 5th ed.* All copy (including the bibliography) must be typewritten in double space. Manuscripts for vol 18, no. 2 must be submitted in duplicate before October 1, 1975, for vol 18, no. 3 before February 1, 1976.

Descriptions of samples, in date lists, should follow as closely as possible the style shown in this volume. Each separate entry (date or series) in a date list should be considered an *abstract*, prepared in such a way that descriptive material is distinguished from geologic or archaeologic interpretation, but description and interpretation must be both brief and informative, emphasis placed on significant comments. Date lists should therefore not be preceded by abstracts, but abstracts of the more usual form should accompany all papers (eg, geochemical contributions) that are directed to specific problems.

Each description should include the following data, if possible in the order given:

1. Laboratory number, descriptive name (ordinarily that of the locality of collection), and the date expressed in years BP (before present, ie, before AD 1950) and, for finite dates, in years AD/BC. The standard error following the date should express, within limits of $\pm 1\sigma$, the laboratory's estimate of the accuracy of the radiocarbon measurement, as judged on physicochemical (not geologic or archaeologic) grounds.

2. Substance of which the sample is composed; if a plant or animal fossil, the scientific name if possible; otherwise the popular name; but not both. Also, where pertinent, the name of the person identifying the specimen.

3. Precise geographic location, including latitude-longitude coordinates.

4. Occurrence and stratigraphic position in precise terms; use of metric system exclusively. Stratigraphic sequences should not be included. However, references that contain them can be cited.

5. Reference to relevant publications. Citations within a description should be to author and year, with specific pages wherever appropriate. References to published date lists should cite the sample no., journal (R for Radiocarbon), years, vol, and specific page (eg, M-1832, R, 1968, v 10, p 97). Full bibliographic references are listed alphabetically at the end of the manuscript, in the form recommended in *Suggestions to Authors*.

6. Date of collection and name of collector.

7. Name of person submitting the sample to the laboratory, and name and address of institution or organization with which submitter is affiliated.

8. Comment, usually comparing the date with other relevant dates, for each of which sample numbers and references must be quoted, as prescribed above. Interpretive material, summarizing the significance and implicitly showing that the radiocarbon measurement was worth making, belongs here, as do technical matters, eg, chemical pretreatment, special laboratory difficulties, etc.

Illustrations should not be included unless absolutely essential. They should be original drawings, although photographic reproductions of line drawings are sometimes acceptable, and should accompany the manuscript in any case, if the two dimensions exceed 30cm and 23cm.

Reprints. Thirty copies of each article, without covers, will be furnished without cost. Additional copies and printed covers can be specially ordered.

Back issues. Back issues (vols 1-9) are available at a reduced rate to subscribers at \$52.00 a set, including postage; vols 10-14 are \$20.00 each for individual subscribers and \$30.00 for institutions; vols 15-18 are \$30.00 each for individuals and \$45.00 for institutions; single back issues \$10.00 each; comprehensive index \$10.00 each.

* *Suggestions to authors of the reports of the United States Geological Survey*, 5th ed, Washington, DC, 1958 (Government Printing Office, \$1.75).

NOTICE TO READERS

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 8th International Conference on Radiocarbon Dating, Wellington, New Zealand, 1972. 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. As agreed at the Cambridge Conference in 1962, AD 1950 is accepted as the standard year of reference for all dates, whether BP or in the AD/BC system.

Meaning of $\delta^{14}\text{C}$. In Volume 3, 1961, we indorsed 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.)

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.

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, covering all published ^{14}C measurements through Volume 7 of RADIOCARBON, and incorporating revisions made by all laboratories, has been published. It is available to all subscribers to RADIOCARBON at \$10.00 US per copy.

Publication schedule. Beginning with Volume 15, RADIOCARBON is published in three numbers: Winter, Spring, and Summer. The next deadline is October 1, 1975. Contributors who meet our deadlines will be given priority but not guaranteed publication in the following issue.

List of laboratories. The comprehensive list of laboratories at the end of each volume now appears in the third number of each volume.

Index. All dates appear in index form at the end of the third number of each volume.

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