FROM THE EDITOR

On the heels of the new IntCal volume, which rounded out 2004, in our first issue of 2005, we have a full issue including 15 papers and a technical note.

We begin with three papers highlighting dating of bone and archaeological samples. Anderson et al. discuss the problems of contaminating material in sites from Palau, and Braje et al. focus on the apparently extensive archaeological record on San Miguel Island, California. In Chinese studies, Liu et al. have dated a collection of bone samples from the Xia dynasty.

Related to archaeology, Boaretto et al. discuss intercomparison studies aimed at trying to resolve the Iron Age dating problems in the Near East. These measurements require high-precision dates to try to interpret some of these studies.

A new bomb curve from annual tree rings from Italy is detailed by Quarta et al. Usoskin and Kromer try to interpret the ^{14}C record in order to derive changes in the ^{14}C production rate. Guilderson et al. investigate pre-bomb ^{14}C variability and reservoir effects in the surface ocean around the Cariaco Basin. This is important since the Cariaco Basin sediments have been used to support the IntCal calibration curve. Another study of reservoir effects focuses on the Brazilian coast (Angulo et al.).

In technique development, Hwang and Druffel visit the problem of blanks in the measurements of particulate organic matter and Theodórsson discusses a simple and compact liquid scintillation system. Norton writes a short note to discuss an improved tube-cracking device.

Soil and peat studies are discussed in three papers estimating turnover of carbon (Bruun et al.) and two papers on peat deposits (Goslar et al. and Charman and Garnett). Finally, we have two date lists from Yemeni and Mexican sites.

It seems 2005 will be as busy as ever for radiocarbon measurements.

A J Timothy Jull

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