

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue of *Radiocarbon*, there are a number of papers discussing technical developments, including a paper by Higham et al. and another by Gerstmann and Tschöpp. We also have a technical report by Zhou et al. on the first work using the Xi'an AMS machine. Two date lists summarize recent radiocarbon work at the Seoul National University AMS facility.

Other papers highlight the use of radiocarbon in paleoclimate studies, with a study of the Great Lakes region by Leavitt et al. and the difficulties of dating lacustrine deposits (Zhang et al.).

Studies on archaeology include a date list by Lengyel et al. on new Upper Paleolithic dates from the Mount Carmel region in Israel. Also, Carson and Mintmier report on the dating of prehistoric campsites on the island of Maui, Hawaii. Also in this issue are two reviews on recently published books.

Recent papers seem to have generated some controversy; we have 3 comments: one by Moss et al. on an earlier archaeological paper by Hall et al. (2005) and a comment by I. Olsson on some Icelandic archaeology. A third comment by Anderson and Higham continues the debate about the dating of rat bones from New Zealand and their association with the arrival of humans.

Open Access

At *Radiocarbon*, we are always striving to keep up with the times. We have been working with the University of Arizona Library on creating a back-file of past issues of *Radiocarbon* in electronic form. All issues prior to 2000 are now available at radiocarbon.library.arizona.edu/radiocarbon/. This website is open access, and there are no restrictions on using these files, apart from the copyright restrictions. Everyone is free to look at this site and download any past papers from *Radiocarbon* before 2000. After 2000, the electronic copies of papers are available at www.ingentaconnect.com (or use the link via radiocarbon.org). Access to Ingenta requires either you or your institution has a current subscription. We plan to add more years into the open-access database over time and reduce the number of issues available only via subscription to a few years. This is an experiment in "open access," which is a growing movement in academic libraries. Please let us know if you have any difficulties using the new back-file; we are trying to clear any computer errors that may exist. We would like to thank the University of Arizona Librarian for funding open access for *Radiocarbon*.

Funding

Radiocarbon is a non-profit enterprise within the University of Arizona and operates on a modest budget. We have managed to keep our subscription rates low and would like to continue to do so. We receive no direct support from the University, although we were very lucky to receive some support from the University Library for the "open access" project. We have set up a special account to receive donations, which are always welcome. Donors in the USA can use their donation as an income-tax deduction.

The Next Radiocarbon Conference

Finally, many ^{14}C experts met recently in Oxford in April 2006. It was a great meeting and a good chance to meet old and new friends. The next Radiocarbon Conference, the 20th, will be sponsored by the Arizona group. We haven't decided on the final location as yet—it will be in either Arizona or Hawaii. However, we are already starting to think about how to celebrate 50 years of *Radiocarbon*.

A J Timothy Jull