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RADIOCARBON

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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 covers all published ^{14}C measurements through Volume 7 of RADIOCARBON, and incorporates revisions made by all laboratories. It is available to all subscribers to RADIOCARBON at $20.00 US per copy.

List of laboratories. The comprehensive list of laboratories at the end of each volume appears in the third number of each volume. Changes in names or addresses should be reported to the Managing Editor by May 1.

Annual Index. All dates appear in index form at the end of the third number of each volume. Authors of date lists are asked to supply indexed material of *archaeologic samples only* with their date lists.

NOTICE TO READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Since its inception, the basic purpose of Radiocarbon has been the publication of compilations of ^{14}C dates produced by various laboratories. These lists are extremely useful for the dissemination of basic ^{14}C information.

In recent years, Radiocarbon has also been publishing technical and interpretative articles on all aspects of ^{14}C, especially in the Proceedings issues. The editors and readers agree that this expansion is broadening the scope of the Journal.

Another section is added to our regular issues, "Notes and Comments". Authors are invited to extend discussions or raise pertinent questions to the results of scientific investigations that have appeared on our pages. The section will include short, technical notes to relay information concerning innovative sample preparation procedures. Laboratories may also seek assistance in technical aspects of radiocarbon dating. Book reviews will also be included for special editions.

Manuscripts of radiocarbon papers should follow the recommendations in *Suggestions to Authors*.* All copy (including the bibliography) must be typewritten in *double space*. Our deadline schedule is:

For	*Date*
Vol 26, No. 2, 1984	Jan 1, 1984
Vol 26, No. 3, 1984	May 1, 1984
Vol 27, No. 1, 1985	Sept 1, 1984

General or technical articles should follow the recommendations above and the editorial style of the *American Journal of Science* or the Proceedings of the Eleventh International Radiocarbon Conference. Date lists should follow the format shown in the most recent issue of RADIOCARBON. More detailed instructions are available upon request. Separate mailings have been discontinued.

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 11th International Radiocarbon Conference in Seattle, Washington, 1982. 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. In accordance with the decision of the Ninth International Radiocarbon Conference, Los Angeles and San Diego, 1976, the designation of AD/BC, obtained by subtracting AD 1950 from conventional BP determinations is discontinued in Radiocarbon. Authors or submitters may include calendar estimates as a comment, and report these estimates as AD/BC, citing the specific calibration curve used to obtain the estimate.

Meaning of $\delta^{14}C$. In Volume 3, 1961, we endorsed 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 $\delta^{14}C$ 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 $\delta^{14}C$ as the observed deviation from the standard. At the New Zealand Radiocarbon Dating Conference it was recommended to use $\delta^{14}C$ 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). The Ninth International Radiocarbon Conference, Los Angeles and San Diego, 1976, recommended that the reference standard, 0.95 times NBS oxalic acid activity, be normalized to $\delta^{13}C = -19‰$.

In several fields, however, age corrections are not possible. $\delta^{14}C$ 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.

* Suggestions to Authors of the Reports of the United States Geological Survey, 6th ed, 1978, Supt of Documents, U S Govt Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

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