

FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

Dear reader,

These three volumes, the proceedings of the 17th International Radiocarbon Conference, are the outcome of a hectic year that began right after the end of the conference in Jerusalem. How did I spend this year? Soliciting papers from authors (thank you, authors, for your papers); finding reviewers for the papers (thank you, reviewers, for your excellent work and thank you, International Advisory Board, for help in finding the reviewers); sending the reviews to the authors and getting back the revisions (thank you, authors, for your promptness); editing the papers (thank you, authors, for your patience) and sending the papers to *Radiocarbon* for inclusion in the proceedings (thank you, Kim and Agnieszka, for putting the papers through the final stages of editing and printing).

In the conference we had 87 oral presentations and 215 posters. The volumes contain 128 papers (42% of the total), impressively distributed over the whole spectrum of activity of doing and using radiocarbon dating. As is proper for the new millennium, we begin with an overview of things to come. I have endeavored to divide the other 127 papers into six categories which, I hope, contain coherent subjects:

Part 1. Becoming Better; Getting More from the Data.

Part 2. Our “Dry” Environment—Above Sea Level; Our “wet” Environment; Archaeology.

And finally, we have

Part 3. Near East Chronology: Archaeology and Environment.

Broadly speaking, you will see that the chapters are quite uniform in size, but the number of papers per chapter section is far from uniform. This may reflect the intensity of work in the various fields of our extended discipline, or perhaps the beginning of a change in the content of Radiocarbon meetings—the future is for us to see...

But the present shows us already that the interest in Radiocarbon and its contribution to different fields has increased. In 1994, the 15th Radiocarbon Conference in Glasgow produced 1 proceedings book. The 16th Radiocarbon Conference in 1997 in Groningen produced 2 proceedings books, and the 17th Radiocarbon Conference in 2000 in Jerusalem has produced 3 proceedings books. If this is a trend—again the future is for us to see...

During the past year, I have recalled the Jerusalem conference many times, not least the social aspects—the visit to the model of ancient Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall and the excavations in the City of David, and the reception overlooking the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem with the Tower of David and Mount Zion. And then, the visit to Qumran and Masada, bathing in the Dead Sea, and the enchanting twilight walk in the Lisan formation, followed by a Beduin dinner.

Organizing the conference and meeting the participants as a host was a special, unforgettable experience for me, an experience which I highly recommend. I am sure that the Lower Hutt people will confirm this after the New Zealand conference on 2003.

Israel Carmi

Guest editor and conference chairman

THANKS FROM RADIOCARBON



Radiocarbon's editors thank Israel Carmi, Elisabetta Boaretto, and Hendrik Bruins for their hard work and cooperation during the preparation of these proceedings. *Clockwise from top left:* Associate Editors Warren Beck in Tel Aviv, and George Burr (*left*, with Konrad Huguen) at the Ma'ale Hachamicha Kibbutz Hotel. Editor Tim Jull at the Sea of Galilee during a post-conference excursion. Assistant Editor Agnieszka Przychodzen (*left*) and Managing Editor Kim Elliott at the *Radiocarbon* offices.