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Radiocarbon

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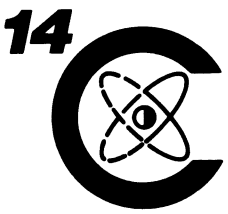

Calibration 1993

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FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT

From the vantage point of the *RADIOCARBON* editorial offices, we are well aware of the popularity, and presumed usefulness of the first Radiocarbon Calibration Issue published seven years ago. We continue to receive more requests for this single issue than all other back issues.

Despite the added uncertainty, and often enigmatic calibrated ranges and probability curves, most consumers of ^{14}C data are interested less in "radiocarbon years" than in calendrical years. Radiocarbon calibration schemes were available before the 1986 CALIBRATION ISSUE, which summarized the most recent and best calibration data available at the time. However, like any other technical measurement at the leading edge of possible precision, ^{14}C measurements have their intrinsic uncertainties. CALIBRATION 1993 represents the current state-of-the-art calibration, with improvements, adjustments and extensions. In only a few cases will the user notice minor differences in calibrated results from these new calibrations compared to the 1986 calibrations. The major differences are in the extended calibrated time range and the computer programs for calibration.

Calibration work continues, and this 1993 version is unlikely to be the last one. Anticipated major refinements in the next calibration issue are extensions using datable material other than tree rings, and possibly the confirmation of small regional variations of the ^{14}C calibration.

Austin Long

COVER

The Sun's "rays" were constructed from an 11,000 cal yr residual $\Delta^{14}C$ record (Fig. 11, p. 148). Time (past to present) proceeds clockwise. Approximate cal yr ages of some prominent perturbations (6–3) are, respectively, 8500 BP, 7200 BP, 4800 BP and 2700 BP. The 16th and 18th century Spörer (2) and Maunder (1) $\Delta^{14}C$ maxima complete the recent part of the record.

Design by Minze Stuiver, T. F. Braziunas and Floyd Bardsley.

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