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RADIOCARBON

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Editors

RICHARD FOSTER FLINT — EDWARD S. DEEVEY

Managing Editor

THELMA M. PFENNINGER

ROOM 5, STERLING TOWER

YALE UNIVERSITY

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Manuscripts of radiocarbon papers should follow the recommendations in *Suggestions to Authors*, 5th ed.* All copy must be typewritten in *double space* (including the bibliography): manuscripts must be submitted in *duplicate.*

Descriptions of samples, in date lists, should follow as closely as possible the style shown in this volume. Each separate entry (date or series) in a date list should be considered an *abstract*, prepared in such a way that descriptive material is distinguished from geologic or archaeologic interpretation, but description and interpretation must be both brief and informative. Date lists should therefore not be preceded by abstracts, but abstracts of the more usual form should accompany all papers (e.g. geochemical contributions) that are directed to specific problems.

Each description should include the following data, if possible in the order given:

1. Laboratory number, descriptive name (ordinarily that of the locality of collection), and date expressed in years B.P. (before present). The standard error following the date should express, within limits of $\pm$ 1σ, the laboratory's estimate of the accuracy of the radiocarbon measurement, *as judged on physicochemical* (*not geologic or archaeologic*) *grounds.*

2. Substance of which the sample is composed; if a plant or animal fossil, the scientific name if possible; otherwise the popular name; but not both. Also, where pertinent, the name of the person identifying the specimen.

3. Precise geographic location, *including latitude-longitude coordinates.*

4. Occurrence and stratigraphic position in precise terms.

5. Reference to relevant publications. Citations within a description should be to author and year, with specific pages wherever appropriate, except that references (e.g. to published date lists that are frequently repeated) may be simplified by use of a code (e.g. Groningen III) that is explained in the bibliography. Full bibliographic references are listed alphabetically at the end of the manuscript, in the form recommended in *Suggestions to Authors.*

6. Date of collection and name of collector.

7. Name of person submitting the sample to the laboratory, and name and address of institution or organization with which submitter is affiliated.

8. Comment, usually comparing the date with other relevant dates, for each of which sample numbers and references must be quoted, as prescribed above. Interpretive material, summarizing the significance and implicitly showing that the radiocarbon measurement was worth making, belongs here, as do technical matters, e.g. chemical pretreatment, special laboratory difficulties, etc.

Illustrations, in general, should be originals, but photographic reproductions of line drawings are sometimes acceptable, and should accompany the manuscript in any case, if the originals exceed 9 by 12 inches in size.

Reprints. Thirty separate copies of each article will be furnished to each paper, free of cost; these will be without a cover. Additional copies will be furnished at cost. Printed covers can be specially ordered.

* Suggestions to authors of the reports of the United States Geological Survey, 5th ed., Washington, D. C., 1958 (Government Printing Office, $1.75).

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Radiocarbon

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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Half life of C^{14}. New determinations of this fundamental constant of C^{14} dating continue to be published, and it is hoped that interlaboratory agreement can be reached at the Cambridge conference scheduled for July 1962 or soon thereafter. Until such agreement can be announced, we consider that premature recalculation of published dates would be disastrous, and at our insistence **all dates published in this volume (Volume 4) are based on the Libby value, 5570 ± 30 yr.** Exception has been made for dates in Louvain I, because some of these measurements, previously published elsewhere, had been based on the NBS value, 5760 yr.

A.D./B.C. dates. As has been pointed out in several publications, the use of B.P. ("before present"), though convenient in the calculation of time rates, is becoming increasingly ambiguous and confusing now that C^{14} dating is more than a decade old. Although for the present we continue to use B.P., we have suggested, and the laboratories represented in this volume have agreed, **that A.D. 1950 be accepted as the standard reference year,** i.e. B.P. now means "Before Physics." Hence B.P. dates can now be converted to the A.D./B.C. scale without ambiguity arising from the year of measurement or of publication or of citation or from the decay of C^{14} in the NBS oxalic acid. No statistically significant difference is made in any date by adding or subtracting five or ten years from it, and republication is considered unnecessary for the present. When agreement on the correct half life is attained, a comprehensive index to all dates, now being planned, can include recalculations made for any reason. Adoption of A.D. 1950 as the year of reference appropriately honors W. F. Libby, and is arithmetically more convenient than A.D. 1955 or A.D. 1962, but it is a compromise; historians and others who may find it unacceptable are urged to communicate directly with us or with the conferees at Cambridge, rather than to write plaintive letters to the editors of other professional journals.

Russian laboratories. In our efforts to insure completeness of coverage and centralized publication of all C^{14} dates, we have of course communicated with the Russian laboratories known to us, and we expect to publish Russian date lists in future volumes. Meanwhile we note for our readers the publication, in English translation, of two Russian date lists chiefly concerned with geology:

Vinogradov, A. P., and others, 1956, C^{14} age determinations: Geokhimiya, no. 8, p. 729-736,

———— 1959, Determination of absolute age by the carbon^{14} method (Part II): Geokhimiya, no. 8, p. 815-823.

We also note one archaeologic date list:

Artemev, V. V., S. V. Butomo, V. M. Drzhzhin, and E. N. Romanova, 1961, Rezultaty Opredeleniya Absolyutnogo Vozrasta Ryada Archeologicheski, I Geologicheskie Obraztsov Po Radiouglerodu (C^{14}) : Sovetskaia Archeologiia, no. 2.

An unpublished partial translation of the last-cited paper, made at the Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, is on file in the RADIOCARBON office, and we shall be pleased to learn of the existence of other papers, and especially of other translations.

RICHARD FOSTER FLINT

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