

IX. REPORTS, COMMENTS AND REMARKS

BUSINESS MEETING
Recommendations/Resolutions Adopted by the
Twelfth International Radiocarbon Conference

WILLEM G MOOK

Department of Physics, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

The following recommendations/resolutions were adopted:

- Conventional ^{14}C ages—based on $T_{1/2} = 5568$ years and NBS oxalic acid activity—are to be reported in years BP where 0 BP is the year 1950.
- Dendrochronologically calibrated ages are to be reported as cal AD or cal BC, or, if required, cal BP.
- Historical—non ^{14}C —ages are generally given in AD or BC. The use of AD/BC in connection with ^{14}C ages by archaeologists is discouraged. It should be noted, however, that in the past, extensive use has been made of AD/BC dates obtained by subtracting 1950 years from conventional ages BP.
- Calibration curves for ^{14}C should contain real *time* on the horizontal axis (progressing time to the right) and conventional ^{14}C *age* on the vertical axis (increasing age in the upward direction). The abscissa scale thus indicates cal BC and cal AD (if required cal BP), the ordinate scale indicates years BP.
- The standard deviation of the calibration curve (σ_c) is to be incorporated in the standard deviation of the ^{14}C measurement (σ) by applying $\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \sigma_c^2}$ before the calibration conversion is carried out.
- The calibration curves by Stuiver and Pearson for the period 500 BC to the present, and by Pearson and Stuiver for the period 2500 BC to 500 BC as published in the special volume of the Proceedings of the XIIth International Radiocarbon Conference, Trondheim, 1985 (Radiocarbon, v 28, No. 2B) have sufficiently been double-checked to serve as the officially recommended calibration curves for the period mentioned.
- Calibration graphs used should contain a reference to the curve's author(s) in the upper righthand corner (eg, on computer printouts). Computer printouts should identify the curve's authors for each calibrated date.
- ^{14}C ages from Southern Hemisphere samples should be diminished by 30 years before applying existing calibration curves.
- And, as a matter for deliberation, the SI system symbol for year is “a”.