

## NOTICE TO READERS

**Half life of  $^{14}\text{C}$ .** 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,  $5570 \pm 30$  yr**, for the half life. This decision was reaffirmed at the 8th International Conference on Radiocarbon Dating, Wellington, New Zealand, 1972. Because of various uncertainties, when  $^{14}\text{C}$  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,  $5730 \pm 40$  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.** As agreed at the Cambridge Conference in 1962, AD 1950 is accepted as the standard year of reference for all dates, whether BP or in the AD/BC system.

**Meaning of  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$ .** In Volume 3, 1961, we indorsed the notation  $\Delta$  (Lamont VIII, 1961) for geochemical measurements of  $^{14}\text{C}$  activity, corrected for isotopic fractionation in samples and in the NBS oxalic-acid standard. The value of  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  that entered the calculation of  $\Delta$  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  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  as the **observed** deviation from the standard. At the New Zealand Radiocarbon Dating Conference it was recommended to use  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  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.)

In several fields, however, age corrections are not possible.  $\delta^{14}\text{C}$  and  $\Delta$ , 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  $\Delta$  notations for samples not corrected for age.

**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, covering all published  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements through Volume 7 of *RADIOCARBON*, and incorporating revisions made by all laboratories, has been published. It is available to all subscribers to *RADIOCARBON* at \$10.00 US per copy.

**Publication schedule.** Beginning with Volume 15, *RADIOCARBON* is published in three numbers: Winter, Spring, and Summer. The next deadline is October 1, 1976. Contributors who meet our deadlines will be given priority but not guaranteed publication in the following issue.

**List of laboratories.** The comprehensive list of laboratories at the end of each volume now appears in the third number of each volume.

**Index.** All dates appear in index form at the end of the third number of each volume.