

RADIOCARBON UPDATES

Detailed List of Significant ¹⁴C Ages

A detailed list of 3500 ¹⁴C ages significant of culture and climatic events in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin, concentrating on the last 20,000 yr BP, is now available on the Internet. The dates are drawn from scientific journals including *The Holocene*, *Boreas*, *Nature*, *Science* and especially *Radiocarbon* (1959–1994) and *Archaeometry* (1984–1995). Ages in the list were selected for reliability based on their accompanying geological or archaeological descriptions. The compilers do not report all the ages of long series related to a single climatic or cultural event, but only the youngest and oldest ones.

Complete bibliographical references for each age in the reference list accompany the database, for a total of more than 330 bibliographical items.

The databases can be accessed using the following URL:

`gopher://hp750.dst.unipi.it:70/11/earth-science/Data%20Banks`

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A Note from Reidar Nydal

Dear Friends,

The time has passed very fast in the field of radiocarbon dating, and some of us find ourselves suddenly within one standard deviation. This just happened to me after 40 years at this institution, when I retired at the end of November 1995. A small meeting was arranged here at this occasion, with the presence of some close Scandinavian friends.

I am a bit optimistic about the future, and hope that there will be a little more time for other things (*i.e.*, skiing and kayaking). I find it also of great advantage that the Institute of Physics will still offer me an office here, so that I can continue and finish some of my recent work. This will mainly concern carbon cycling, based on ¹⁴C in the ocean and atmosphere.

I hope to see you all again sometime, even though I will certainly not have the same possibilities for traveling. I think I will miss you more as friends than researchers.

So, I wish all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year and future. Please give my regards to other friends who are not reached by this message.

Thanks for knowing you,

Reidar Nydal

AMQUA Meeting on Global Warming

The 14th Biennial Meeting of the American Quaternary Association will be held 20–22 May 1996, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. The theme of the meeting is “Global Warming: Interglacials, Interstadials, Climatic Optima, and Other Events”. A keynote speech giving an overview of different types of warming will be followed by speakers addressing specific topics within the earth and biotic systems outlined, and accompanied by poster presentations. Pre- and post-symposium field trips will visit sites of archaeological and paleoenvironmental significance throughout the southwestern United States.

Abstracts for papers and poster presentations are due no later than 15 February 1996. Early registration is urged for those hoping to attend field trips. For further information, contact:

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Australasian Archaeometry Conference

The Sixth Australasian Archaeometry Conference, “Australasian Archaeometry: Retrospectives for the New Millennium”, will be held 10–13 February 1997 at the Australian Museum in Sydney. The Conference Co-chairmen are Claudio Tuniz of ANSTO and Richard Fullagar of the Australian Museum and the Conference Manager is Margaret Lanigan of AINSE.

The Conference will focus on the status of archaeometry, major achievements, advances and applications, and include studies of chronology, technology, characterization, environment, biomedicine, climate change, archaeometric analysis, rock art and forgeries. Sessions held at the Australian Museum will feature archaeometric studies of museum objects. There will also be an inspection of the ANSTO facilities. Distinguished overseas visitors will be invited to present public lectures.

An early-1996 announcement will feature a call for abstracts. See the Conference announcement at the back of this issue for details and registration information.