

## NOTICE TO READERS

**Half life of C<sup>14</sup>.** 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 ± 30 yr**, for the half life. This decision was reaffirmed at the H<sup>3</sup> and C<sup>14</sup> Conference, Pullman, Washington, 1965. Because of various uncertainties, when C<sup>14</sup> measurements are expressed as dates in years B.P. the dates are arbitrary, and refinements that take some but not all uncertainties into account may be misleading. As stated in Professor Harry Godwin's letter to *Nature* (v. 195, no. 4845, p. 984, September 8, 1962), the mean of three new determinations of the half life, 5730 ± 40 yr, is regarded as the best value now obtainable. Published dates can be converted to this basis by multiplying them by 1.03.

**A.D./B.C. dates.** As agreed at the Cambridge Conference in 1962, A.D. 1950 is accepted as the standard year of reference for all dates, whether B.P. or in the A.D./B.C. system.

**Meaning of  $\delta C^{14}$ .** In Volume 3, 1961, we indorsed the notation  $\Delta$  (Lamont VIII, 1961) for geochemically interesting measurements of C<sup>14</sup> activity, corrected for isotopic fractionation in samples and in the NBS oxalic-acid standard. The value of  $\delta C^{14}$  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 the editors as well as by authors, and recent papers have used  $\delta C^{14}$  as the **observed** deviation from the standard. This is of course the more logical and self-explanatory meaning, and cannot be abandoned now without confusion; moreover, except in tree-ring-dated material, it is rarely possible to make an age correction that is independent of the C<sup>14</sup> age. In the rare instances where  $\Delta$  or  $\delta C^{14}$  are used for samples whose age is both appreciable and known, we assume that authors will take special care to make their meaning clear; reference merely to " $\Delta$  as defined by Broecker and Olson (Lamont VIII)" is not adequate.

**Radiocarbon Measurements: Comprehensive Index, 1950-1965.** This index, covering all published C<sup>14</sup> 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 ten dollars U.S. per copy.

**Publication schedule.** Beginning with Volume 15, RADIOCARBON will be published in three numbers: Winter, Spring, and Summer. The next deadline is February 1, 1973. 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 will now appear in the third number of each volume.

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