

FROM THE EDITOR

Our first official issue of 2002 comes on the heels of the massive conference proceedings, published as Volume 43, Nrs 2A, 2B, and 3 (2001), which represented the papers presented at the 17th International Radiocarbon Conference from Israel in 2000. Volume 44, Nr 1, is also a substantial volume, and includes a number of diverse papers spanning a variety of applications of radiocarbon. Our cover for this issue shows the Vinland Map, which highlights dating of this interesting object, reported by Harbottle, Donahue, and Olin.

In this issue, we also include the first publication in *Radiocarbon* of a large number of results from the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), a result of many years of careful work at the National Ocean Sciences AMS Facility (NOSAMS) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Samples of ocean water from different depths along many well-defined tracks were collected by the WOCE program over many years and well over 10,000 samples from WOCE have been analyzed at NOSAMS.

We also introduce a new section of *Radiocarbon*, entitled "Discussion". Here, Keenan presents an unorthodox view of radiocarbon dates from the Near East, and argues that there is considerable evidence to question the assumption that the radiocarbon record is free from regional effects. Although some no doubt criticize his approach, this will perhaps enhance discussions between Near East archaeologists and radiocarbon experts.

A number of other interesting papers are included in this issue. Some technical studies related to archeological charcoal and the possibility of monitoring the removal of humic substances using Raman are discussed by Alan et al., and Takahashi et al. discuss the removal of hide glue from bones. In the technical notes, Carmi comments on the accuracy of dating of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Fitzpatrick discusses new AMS dates on human bones from Palau. We also have a number of papers on carbon dynamics in soils, and a discussion of problems of dating lacustrine sediment sequences (Gibert et al.) as well as the even more intractable problems associated with radiocarbon dating of opal by Zheng et al.

In our section "Ocean and Global Studies", several papers discuss marine reservoir corrections. Lowe et al. discuss monitoring of global ^{14}C production. They show that neutron monitor data track well with their studies of ^{14}CO at Baring Head, New Zealand and that ^{14}CO variations track changes in solar activity. This is important, among other things, as it confirms the long-held view that ^{14}C produced in the atmosphere passes through a CO phase before being converted to CO_2 .

Finally, a traditional date list from Argentina and some discussions of technicalities of the calibration and another calibration program round out this issue. The wide range of topics will continue in our next issues for 2002.

A J Timothy Jull