

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue, we first note the passing of Paul Damon. Three different views of his life and his strong influence on radiocarbon at the University of Arizona and elsewhere are mentioned. On May 30th, many of us attended a memorial for Paul near the UA campus.

He will be missed.

Beginning this issue, we welcome a new member of our editorial board, Nancy Beavan Athfield, who is replacing a retiring member, Rodger Sparks. We are grateful for Rodger's contributions to the journal and we wish him the best for a long and well-deserved retirement. With Rodger's help, Nancy edited the New Zealand Radiocarbon Conference proceedings in record time. We look forward to Nancy's continued participation with the journal.

Moving to this issue, we have 13 papers on a variety of topics. There are a number of methods applied to archaeology. Petchey and Green used stable isotope measurements to "calibrate" their radiocarbon ages, so that they could account for dietary differences, in samples from Watom Island, Papua New Guinea. Quarta et al. report on dating of Neolithic bone and charcoals from southern Italy. On the other side of the globe, Guo et al. studied the Fengxi site in central China—this study needs considerable precision to compare to the historical records. Blau and Yagodin also studied human bones, except in this case their study was in a site in Uzbekistan, and found that the sites may have been occupied earlier than previous estimates. We also have 2 archaeological date lists, one from Kennedy et al. on sites near Bodega Bay, California, and the second an extensive list of radiocarbon dates from Palau, summarized by Jolie Liston.

There are also several more methods-oriented papers. Theodórsson reports on a novel method of counting liquid-scintillation samples by minimizing the effects of the radon counts, so that one does not have to wait for the Rn to decay. Yoshikawa et al. attempted to use ^{14}C as a tracer in volcanic gases, which surprisingly contained significant amounts of ^{14}C , indicating different sources of carbon.

In other studies, Vasil'chuk et al. report on further attempts to date ice wedges in permafrost and Marzaioli et al. discuss a local industrial Suess effect in Lajatico, Italy.

I assume that Paul Damon would be interested to know that radiocarbon studies still cover a wide range of territory.

A J Timothy Jull