

RADIOCARBON UPDATES

General Index of Louvain Dates Published

Ivan Jadin informs us that the ^{14}C laboratory at Louvain, headed by Etienne Gilot, closed in September 1997. M. Gilot has just issued a general index of Lv- dates spanning the lab's 40 years of operation, as described in the following announcement:

Index Général des Dates Lv- (Laboratoire du Carbone 14 de Louvain/Louvain-la-Neuve)

After 40 years of activity, the ^{14}C Dating Laboratory of the Catholic University of Louvain is closing its doors. And as always in such a case, access to the archived information will soon become difficult, then altogether impractical. Most of the dates have indeed been published. The first, up to 1973, were primarily published in the journal *RADIOCARBON*. Afterwards the others were presented mostly in articles, often interdisciplinary, devoted specifically to studied sites. Still others remain unpublished. How can Ariadne's thread be found amidst this dispersion?

To alleviate this difficulty, we have gathered in one index volume all the ^{14}C dates obtained at the Louvain/Louvain-la-Neuve (Lv) laboratory. The framework of such a work of course precludes detail; it imposes simplifications that are sometimes treacherous. The intention is to provide researchers with minimal information enough to permit them to pursue their investigations. [from E. Gilot's Introduction; translated from the French]

Cost of the 224-page volume is 500 BEF plus postage. For further information about the volume, please contact Ivan Jadin, Secretary, FNRS Contact Group "Prehistory", Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium (tel. +32 2 627 4386; fax +32 2 646 4433; e-mail Ivan.Jadin@kbinirsnb.be).

Workshop on Global Paleoenvironmental Data

The Second Workshop on Global Paleoenvironmental Data will take place 9–12 February 1998 in Boulder, Colorado, USA. The conference organizers list these workshop goals:

Evaluate the spectrum of PAGES science activities and tasks from the perspective of well-coordinated data management and full and open sharing of scientific data. Data management encompasses the technical details of how PAGES data sets are processed, documented, archived and distributed, whereas data sharing focuses on the ease of timely availability and usefulness both of data required to actually carry out the scientific research and data generated as a result of the scientific research. A challenge within the PAGES science activities and tasks is to ensure end-to-end data management and data access while maintaining the emphasis on basic scientific research questions. The systematic evaluation of the PAGES activities and tasks will provide a mechanism to identify common problems and to develop crosscutting solutions to overcome potential roadblocks. The resulting workshop report will describe how needed data management and access can be unobtrusively integrated into the PAGES science activities and tasks, and present an implementation plan for the next five years.

Among the crosscutting issues alluded to will be improved chronologies and correlations for these different projects.

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