

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue, we now have a new managing editor, Mark McClure, and Agnieszka Baier continues as business manager. Kim Elliott has left the university. The cause of her departure is a beautiful daughter, Corinne. I am sure everyone wishes Kim well. Kim writes her own farewell after this editorial.

It is difficult to start these comments without noting the passing of John Head this summer 2003. John's work in the dating of sediments and studies of charcoal and cellulose are well-known. We will all remember John's quiet demeanor and dedication to his work. Weijian Zhou, who worked closely with John for many years in Xi'an and Australia, will write an obituary for our next issue. The obituary was also presented at the 18th International Radiocarbon Conference.

In this issue, we again present a selection of interesting papers in the field of radiocarbon dating. A paper by Yuan et al. discusses dating of Chinese papers and Okhouchi et al. delve into the mysteries of trying to separate (and date) fatty acids from sediments. Reservoir effects, both applied to dating (Cordero et al.) and changes in the ^{14}C in corals (Grottoli et al.), are discussed. Papers by Bazarova et al. and Garcia are concerned with Late Pleistocene megafauna and the interaction of early man with these species. Straus and González Morales are similarly interested in the dating of early modern humans. Our remaining papers discuss archaeological issues, in Peru (Michczyński et al.) and prehistoric burial mounds (Kristiansen et al.), as well as a date list of an Egyptian site (Bard). Finally, we have some technical discussions on calibration for wood samples (Sakamoto et al.), the precision of AMS (Guilderson et al.), and the methodology of scintillation counting (Theodórsson et al.).

I hope that this variety of topics is of interest; our next issue will focus on the Fourth International Radiocarbon Intercomparison (FIRI). I enjoyed meeting many new and old friends at the recent Radiocarbon Conference and we also look forward to the Proceedings of that conference in 2004.

A J Timothy Jull