

## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Radiocarbon* presents a wide range of topics. It is perhaps fitting, that we see a considerable range of subjects, all of which benefit from radiocarbon measurements, since we are close to the 60th anniversary of the first  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements in 1947 and almost the 30th anniversary of the first accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dates, reported in 1977.

Cook et al. extend the idea of using radiocarbon to “date” time of death using tooth enamel, an extension of previous attempts using the offset of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  age of bone and tissue. Dijs et al. discuss the importance of using  $^{14}\text{C}$  for identifying whether different hydrocarbon fuels contain significant amounts of biologically-derived ethanol. Also, Getachew et al. summarize the methods used at Livermore for biological carbon samples, where  $^{14}\text{C}$  is used as a tracer.

Moving to soil carbon studies, Tonneijck et al. studied different carbon fractions in volcanic ash soils in order to determine which fractions are the most useful. A similar team of Dutch researchers, Meijer et al., report on high-accuracy  $^{14}\text{C}$  measurements of atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  in order to understand the changes due to anthropogenic activity in producing the bomb “spike,” as well as fossil-fuel burning, which depresses atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$ . Culleton et al. digress into reservoir effects studied in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Moving to archaeology, Finkelstein and Piasetzky use the publication of a new book, *The Bible and Radiocarbon Dating*, to expound on a perennially controversial topic, the timing of the Iron Age in the Near East. Using a high-precision liquid-scintillation counter, Sakurai et al. discuss the dating and wiggle-matching of  $^{14}\text{C}$  to a 2500-yr-old tree in Japan. In a different approach, Kahn looks at the chronology of residential construction over the last 15 kyr in Mo‘orea in Polynesia. Micó reviews a large number of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates from the Balearic Islands. In a study of an area impacted by dam construction, de Andrade Lima discusses  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating of human occupation in the Itaparica Dam area.

In a study related to paleoclimate, Jull and Geertsema study the frequency of fires at a site in northern British Columbia. Moving to the modern environment, Buzinny discusses radioactive graphite dispersion in the environment, as a result of the Chernobyl explosion of 1986. Turning to a previous paper having archaeological and climatic implications, Davis et al. defend an earlier paper (Hall et al. 2005), which had generated some criticism.

Finally, Magnani et al. a present date list from the Bologna radiocarbon laboratory and Beramendi-Orosco et al. discuss a new sample-preparation and counting laboratory in Mexico City.

It looks like the coming year will have many new applications of radiocarbon and other radioisotopes, which seems suitable given the double anniversary I discussed earlier.

The next meetings of interest to the community will be the AMS conference, to be held in September 2008 in Rome, and the 20th International Radiocarbon Conference, which we hope will be held in Hawaii, in late May 2009.

*A J Timothy Jull*