PREFACE

The 21st International Radiocarbon Conference was held in the headquarters of UNESCO, in the beautiful city of Paris, France. The attractiveness of the French capital melded into the conference and led to a very successful meeting.

A total of 485 participants from 27 countries attended the meeting, which was hosted for the first time in France. We had 513 presentations including 146 oral communications split into 20 sessions (listed below). Sessions were held in a wide variety of fields related to radiocarbon studies, including new thematic sessions never before appearing in past Radiocarbon conferences: ^{14}C modeling, ^{14}C as tracer of life, and unusual applications of ^{14}C. The conference also included classical topics related to calibration, archaeology, oceanography, and paleoclimatology. Three invited talks from Davide Mazzotti on optical detection of $^{14}CO_2$, from Kristy Spalding on ^{14}C analysis of human cells and tissues, and from Jean-Michel Geneste on the Chauvet Cave were very well received.

To continue with acknowledgments, we would like to thank the 63 conveners who managed the 20 sessions and guided the Radiocarbon 2012 conference to a high scientific level. Thanks to our academic and industrial partners for their financial support. As the main organizers of the conference, we would like to thank the Europa Organisation, UNESCO staff, and all colleagues and students who assisted in this very successful meeting and its associated evening events.

We are thankful to *Radiocarbon* editors A J Timothy Jull and Mark McClure for this huge volume that comprises 169 papers, and for their amazing work, patience, and friendly attitude.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all participants of the conference, authors and reviewers who did their excellent work for the proceedings in order for the publication to be available just over a year after the meeting.

The Radiocarbon 2012 Organizing Committee

Photo courtesy of Adam Walanus

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SESSIONS LIST

S1 Calibration

S2 Advances in Physical Measurement Techniques of ^{14}C, and Other Long-lived Radionuclides

S3 Advances in Radiocarbon Pretreatment Protocols

S4 Specific Compounds: Towards New Applications

S5 Statistical Tools

S6 Variations in Radiocarbon Reservoir Effects

S7 Radiocarbon Dating and the Paleolithic

S8 Archaeology - Eurasia and Africa

S9 Radiocarbon and Archaeology of the Americas and Oceania: Improving Chronologies and Theoretical Insights

S10 Oceanic Paleoclimatology and Paleoceanography

S11 Continental Paleoclimatology and Paleohydrology

S12 Insights into the Ocean Carbon Cycle from Radiocarbon Measurements

S13 Radiocarbon as a Tracer of Sources, Fluxes, and Time in Continental Water

S14 Continental Carbon Cycle

S15 Atmospheric Carbon Cycle

S16 Anthropogenic Impacts

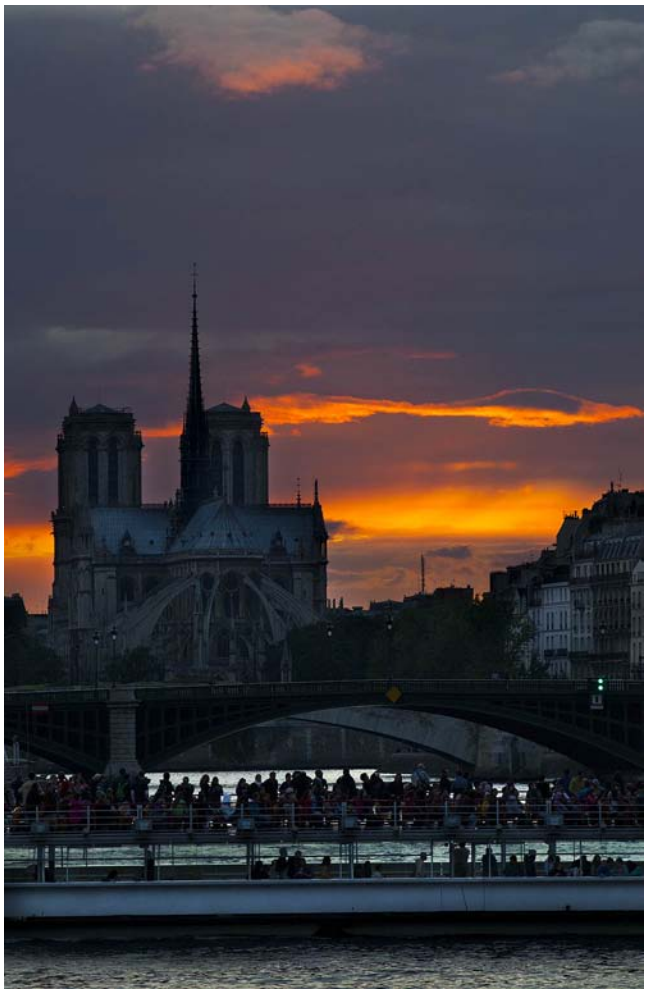
S17 ^{14}C Tracer of Life

S18 Cosmogenic Nuclides

S19 Unusual Applications of ^{14}C Measurement

S20 ^{14}C and Modeling

Photo courtesy of Cécile de Fombelle (Europa Organisation)



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