

LOUVAIN NATURAL RADIOCARBON MEASUREMENTS II

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The measurements reported in this list were made in the Louvain C¹⁴ dating laboratory from July 1962 to October 1963.

INTRODUCTION

The C¹⁴ dates given below are a continuation of the work presented in our first list (Louvain I). Sample preparation, counting procedure and calculations were obtained by using a 0.6 L CH₄ proportional counter, operating at 3 atm pressure. Each sample was measured at least twice for a counting period of 21 hr at a minimum time of 30 days after combustion. Our standard samples for calibration are 63-yr-old oak tree samples. These, when corrected for age, have C¹⁴ contents equal to 94% of the NBS oxalic-acid standard. Data have been calculated on the basis of a C¹⁴ half life of 5570 yr in agreement with the decision of the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference (Godwin, 1962) and expressed in years B.P. (before A.D. 1950) and also in terms of the Christian calendar.

The error in the given ages includes experimental standard deviation resulting from the counting of the modern standard, of the unknown sample and of the background corrections (Crèvecoeur, Vander Stricht and Capron, 1959).

By the decision taken at the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference (Cambridge, July 22-26, 1962), all dates and C¹⁴ measurements are to be reported in terms of the Libby half life, 5570 yr. In order to prevent confusion we give here all data, found on the basis of the Libby half life, for samples referred to in Louvain I. In the latter paper dates were based on the NBS half life of C¹⁴ (5760 yr).

Lab. no.	Corrected age according to Libby half life	
Lv 100	11,250 ± 240	9300 B.C.
Lv 101	11,900 ± 330	9950 B.C.
Lv 6	10,040 ± 400	8090 B.C.
Lv 56	1090 ± 180	A.D. 860
Lv 73	10,560 ± 520	8610 B.C.
Lv 74	11,550 ± 410	9600 B.C.
Lv 75N	11,750 ± 400	9800 B.C.
Lv 75	10,340 ± 450	8390 B.C.
Lv 10	3940 ± 150	1990 B.C.
Lv 43	840 ± 130	A.D. 1110
Lv 44	> 30,000	
Lv 45	5830 ± 180	3880 B.C.
Lv 46	2980 ± 160	1030 B.C.
Lv 47	> 30,000	
Lv 54	1710 ± 100	A.D. 240
Lv 55	< 200	
Lv 93	2660 ± 200	710 B.C.

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SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

I. GEOLOGIC SAMPLES

Lv 27. Vuylbeek **680 ± 160**
A.D. 1270

Charcoal from charcoal layer, 10 cm thick, at depth of 40 cm below surface, at the Forêt de Soignes (50° 47' N Lat, 4° 24' E Long), Prov. of Brabant, Belgium. Charcoal is between two layers of alluvium in the valley of a tributary to the Vuylbeek. Coll. 1962 and subm. by O. De Bontridder, Univ. of Louvain. The measurement allows the dating of a new erosion period of the river.

Tourbière du Grand Passage series

Peat from Tourbière du Grand Passage, near Les Tailles (50° 17' 31" N Lat, 5° 45' 12" E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium, alt 605 m. Coll. 1962 and subm. by W. Mullenders, Univ. of Louvain, Lab. of Palynology.

Lv 57. Grand Passage 25 cm **860 ± 90**
A.D. 1090

Peat from 25 cm, Sub-Atlantic horizon. Pollen analysis indicates the 3rd beech maximum (*Fagus silvatica*—F III), shown in published pollen diagram (Mullenders and Knop, 1962). This maximum had not yet been dated in Belgium.

Lv 58. Grand Passage 110 cm **1100 ± 90**
A.D. 850

Peat from 110 cm, Sub-Atlantic horizon. Pollen analysis indicates a level between two beech increases (*Fagus silvatica*), the 2nd and 3rd maximum (F II and F III) (Mullenders and Knop, 1962).

Lv 59. Grand Passage 155 cm **2770 ± 100**
820 B.C.

Peat from 155 cm, Sub-Boreal level. Pollen analysis indicates a level (about 350 cm in the diagram of Mullenders and Knop, 1962) between the 4th and 5th hazel maxima (*Corylus avellana*—C III and C IV).

Lv 60. Grand Passage 155 cm **2790 ± 90**
840 B.C.

This sample is taken from the same level as Lv 59.

Col de la Furka series

Peat from alt 2280 m, Col de la Furka, Aelpetli (46° 37' N Lat, 8° 27' E Long), near Realp, Canton of Uri, Switzerland. Coll. 1962 and subm. by W. Mullenders. Site is above present-day tree line; pollen analysis shows that it was already above tree line at the times of the dates, but does not indicate possible fluctuations of forest limits.

Lv 66. Col de la Furka 40 cm **2430 ± 140**
480 B.C.

Peat from 40 cm below ground surface, limit Sub-Boreal-Sub-Atlantic.

Lv 67. Col de la Furka 60 cm **2680 ± 130**
730 B.C.

Peat from 60 cm below ground surface, Sub-Boreal level.

Darse 5 series

Peat from Darse 5, Polder Austruweel (51° 14' 46" N Lat, 4° 24' 30" E Long), Prov. of Antwerp, Belgium. Coll. 1959 and subm. by W. Mullenders.

Lv 94. Darse 5, 162 cm **2900 ± 120**
950 B.C.

Peat from 162 cm below ground surface, Sub-Boreal level. C¹⁴ date agrees with the pollen analysis.

Lv 95. Darse 5, 175-180 cm **3280 ± 150**
1330 B.C.

Peat from 175 to 180 cm, Sub-Boreal level. Date corrects the palynological interpretation which assigned an older age to that level.

Lv 96. Darse 5, 230 cm **3890 ± 150**
1940 B.C.

Peat from 230 cm, limit Atlantic-Sub-Boreal. Date shows that the hazel maximum (*Corylus avellana*) at 230 cm is the 4th maximum (C III).

Lv 108. Darse 5, 263 cm **5160 ± 160**
3210 B.C.

Peat from 263 cm, Atlantic level. Date shows that hazel increase (*Corylus avellana*) at level 263 cm is the 3rd maximum (CX). The decrease of *Ulmus*, characteristic of that period in other parts of NW Europe, is not observed here.

Lommel series

Peat layer from 200 to 210 cm below surface of plain of Weyerkenne Bergen (51° 15' N Lat, 5° 18' E Long), near Lommel, Prov. of Limbourg, Belgium, alt 46 m. Overlies frost contorted sand correlated with the Würm glacial age; overlain by eolian sand of Younger Dryas and Holocene ages. Coll. 1963 and subm. by W. Mullenders. Pollen analysis indicates a temperate climate between two cold periods; the oscillation is incontestably Tardiglacial, but could imply either Bölling or Alleröd. The C¹⁴ dating shows it to be Alleröd (Gullentops, Mullenders, Deumer and Gilot, in preparation). The dates agree with Lv 100 and Lv 101 (Louvain I) from the same locality.

Lv 102. Lommel 210 cm **11,680 ± 240**
9730 B.C.

Peat from 210 cm, taken from same level as Lv 101.

Lv 103. Lommel 200 cm **8620 ± 160**
6670 B.C.

Peat from 200 cm, taken from same level as Lv 100. *Comment*: date is much too young; contamination by roots is assumed.

Alpes de Venosc series

Peat overlying gyttja from Venosc (45° 00' N Lat, 6° 07' E Long), in French Alps, alt 1644 m. Coll. 1962 and subm. by Couteaux, Univ. of Louvain,

Lab. of Palynology. By pollen analysis, layer was dated as Alleröd, but with substantial reservations (Couteaux, 1962); the curve of Cyperaceae pollen was thought to be possibly misleading, as were earlier data of local literature. C¹⁴ dates indicate an early Pre-Boreal age.

Lv 106. Venose 175-181 cm **10,130 ± 250**
8180 B.C.

Peat from 175 to 181 cm.

Lv 107. Venose 181-187 cm **9670 ± 240**
7720 B.C.

Peat from 181 to 187 cm.

Terneuzen series

Peat and wood from fossil pine stand covered by Sub-Boreal peat, 150 cm thick, and then by Sub-Atlantic clay, 100 cm thick, Terneuzen (51° 19' N Lat, 3° 48' E Long), Zealand Flanders, The Netherlands. Coll. 1962 and subm. by Munaut, Univ. of Louvain, Lab. of Palynology and Dendrochronology.

Lv 114. Terneuzen pine **4570 ± 130**
2620 B.C.

Wood from pine stub in situ (*Pinus sylvestris*, id. by E. Frison) in peat at 180 cm below ground surface.

Lv 115. Terneuzen pine **4380 ± 120**
2430 B.C.

Wood from pine stub in situ (*Pinus sylvestris*, id. by E. Frison) in peat at 180 cm below ground surface. Dendrochronology indicates that the two pines (Lv 114 and Lv 115) are contemporary.

Lv 116. Terneuzen 110-115 cm **4280 ± 130**
2330 B.C.

Peat from 110 to 115 cm below surface of peat layer. Presence of upper part of *Pinus* zone shows sample to be Sub-Boreal, in agreement with Lv 114 and Lv 115.

Lv 117. Terneuzen 0-10 cm **2270 ± 100**
320 B.C.

Peat from 0 to 10 cm below surface of peat layer. Date agrees with pollen analysis in giving a late Sub-Boreal age.

Lv 118. Terneuzen 51-58 cm **3500 ± 110**
1550 B.C.

Peat from 51 to 58 cm below surface of peat layer. The decrease of *Ulmus* observed at this level is not correlative with the classical decrease, dated at 3000 B.C. in many localities.

Lv 119. Terneuzen oak **4150 ± 90**
2200 B.C.

Wood from oak stub in situ (*Quercus*, id. by E. Frison) in peat 180 cm below ground surface. The small stratigraphic difference seen between the oak and the two pines (Lv 114 and Lv 115) is evidently not significant.

Lv 120. Terneuzen oak **4210 ± 90**
2260 B.C.

Wood from oak trunk (*Quercus*, id. by E. Frison) from peat 180 cm below ground surface.

II. ARCHAEOLOGIC SAMPLES

Lv 8. Waha**1240 \pm 150****A.D. 710**

Burned wood from the construction of the St. Etienne Church Waha (50° 13' N Lat, 5° 20' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium. Coll. 1957 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles. This church dates, according to the historians, from A.D. 1050 (Mertens, 1957).

Lv 11. Via Mansuerisca**790 \pm 70****A.D. 1160**

Wood from the Via Mansuerisca leading from Trèves to Maastricht across the Hautes Fagnes (50° 31' N Lat, 6° 03' E Long), Belgium. Subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles, to help fix the controversial age of this road (Bastin, 1935; Dricot, 1960; Louvain I: Lv 10).

Lv 17. Congo 1**7840 \pm 190****5890 B.C.**

Fossil wood from dried-out fen, coll. during construction of a road at Lemba (4° 23' S Lat, 15° 20' E Long), Prov. of Leopoldville, Congo. Coll. 1957 and subm. by W. Van Pée, Lovanium Univ., Leopoldville, Congo. *Comment*: date indicates a time when the site, presently a desert, was occupied by equatorial forest.

Faascht III series

Wood samples, id. by J. Heim, from road supposed to be Roman, at Grendel (49° 44' N Lat, 5° 48' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium, 50 cm below surface. Coll. 1962 and subm. by Couteaux. Pollen analysis shows at this horizon, a period which can be either Roman or recent. C¹⁴ dates undoubtedly indicate recent period.

Lv 20. Fir wood (Abies)**<240****Lv 21. Pine wood (Pinus)****<220****Lv 22. Pine wood (Pinus)****<140****Busenol series**

Samples from site rich in archaeological remains at Busenol (49° 38' N Lat, 5° 36' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium. Coll. 1958 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles.

Lv 23. Tr XXVIII**1950 \pm 110****1 B.C.**

Wood from pre-Roman rampart.

Lv 24. Tr XXIII**930 \pm 110****A.D. 1020**

Charcoal from a burned horizon, remains of medieval dungeon.

Lv 25. Tr XXIII**1040 \pm 90****A.D. 910**

Charcoal from same level as Lv 24.

Lv 29. St. Hubert **1400 \pm 110**
A.D. 550

Charcoal from St. Hubert Abbey at St. Hubert (50° 01' N Lat, 5° 22' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium. Coll. 1957 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles. Date gives the first occupation age of the St. Hubert site.

Bruges series

Peat from horizon below oldest occupation level at Bruges (51° 13' N Lat, 3° 14' E Long), Prov. of West Flanders, Belgium. Coll. 1955 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles (Mertens, in preparation; Louvain I: Lv 43).

Lv 38. Bruges 1 **5190 \pm 130**
3240 B.C.

Pollen analysis by W. Mullenders shows the site to have been forested, with much lime (*Tilia*), corresponding to the Atlantic zone.

Lv 39. Bruges 2 **1160 \pm 110**
A.D. 790

Pollen analysis at this level by W. Mullenders shows deforestation accompanied by very extensive agricultural activity.

Lv 42. Orval **690 \pm 150**
A.D. 1260

Wood from a construction earlier than Orval abbey near Villers-devant-Orval (49° 38' N Lat, 5° 21' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium. Coll. 1962 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles.

Lv 48. Alba **2040 \pm 160**
90 B.C.

Charcoal from Hercules temple at Massa d'Albe (42° 05' N Lat, 13° 25' E Long), Prov. of Aquila, Italy. Coll. 1962 and subm. by J. Mertens, Univ. of Louvain. Date confirms archaeological date: 1st half of 1st century B.C. (De Visscher, Mertens and Balty, 1962).

Lv 50. Bouillon **<230**

Wood from cross in feudal castle at Bouillon (49° 47' N Lat, 5° 04' E Long), Prov. of Luxembourg, Belgium. Coll. 1961 and subm. by J. Mertens, Univ. of Louvain. Date definitively shows the cross to have no bearing on the history of the castle.

Lv 53. Perk **<190**

Wood from road 1.75 m below surface at Perk (50° 57' N Lat, 4° 30' E Long), Prov. of Brabant, Belgium. Coll. 1951 and subm. by J. Mertens, Univ. of Louvain. Date shows an important alluvium in this site.

Lv 65. Mesvin **5220 \pm 170**
3270 B.C.

Charcoal from Sans Pareil mine 3.65 m below surface at Mesvin (50° 25' 37" N Lat, 3° 57' 58" E Long), Prov. of Hainaut, Belgium. Coll. and subm. by Moisin, Société de Recherche Préhistorique en Hainaut. C¹⁴ dating gives age of mine embankment (Lefrancq *et al.*, 1957).

Lv 82. Stree **<150**

Wood from Roman road at Stree (50° 17' N Lat, 4° 16' E Long), Prov. of Hainaut, Belgium. Coll. 1960 and subm. by J. Mertens, Service des Fouilles, Bruxelles. *Comment*: road is certainly older than the wood, which may have come from recent repair; another sample is needed.

Neuchatel lake series

To compare difference in time between prehistoric constructions in S bank and N bank of Neuchatel lake, two samples were coll. (1960) by Grandjean, Prehist. Mus. Neuchatel, and subm. by E. Borel, member of Prehist. Commission Neuchatel Canton.

Lv 87N. Montbec **2930 ± 120**
980 B.C.

Wood from piling 1.5 m below surface of South Neuchatel lake near Chabrey (46° 56' N Lat, 6° 58' E Long), Canton of Vaud, Switzerland.

Lv 87. Montbec **2840 ± 220**
890 B.C.

Sample from same level as Lv 87N. *Comment*: no pretreatment.

Lv 88. Champveyres **2680 ± 150**
730 B.C.

Wood from piling 2 m below surface of North Neuchatel lake, near St. Blaise (47° 03' N Lat, 6° 58' E Long), Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Lv 89. Motier **<220**

Wood from tree trunk (fir) used in basement of Motier castle at Motier-Travers (46° 55' N Lat, 6° 37' E Long), Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland. Date shows absence of construction before the recent castle.

Lv 93 bis. Deir el Bahari **2800 ± 130**
850 B.C.

Wood from lid of Egyptian mummiform coffin, from Deir el Bahari, W of Thebes (Luxor) Egypt. Coll. by Musee Biblique Inst. d'Archéologie, Univ. of Louvain; subm. by J. Mertens. *Comment*: sample not pretreated. Measurement repeated to test reliability of the dates from Louvain I (Lv 93: 2750 ± 210-800 B.C.).

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