

FLORENCE RADIOCARBON DATES II

C M AZZI

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Sezione di Firenze

L BIGLIOCCA, and E PIOVAN

Istituto di Antropologia, Università di Firenze

This list comprises age measurements carried out from October 1972 to July 1973. Samples dated are all of archaeological interest and come from Italian territory. Pretreatment of samples, production of purest CO₂ and counting techniques have been described elsewhere (Azzi, 1972; Azzi *et al*, 1973).

We have set up a chemical bench to produce CO₂ directly from a sample without CaCO₃ precipitation (Broecker *et al*, 1959); we checked this new method with two samples, F-17 and F-45, below. Ages obtained by both methods agree satisfactorily, but we will continue to check the new bench.

Activity of our "modern standard" wood grown near Florence between 1850 and 1870, was checked with 95% of NBS oxalic acid counting rate and measurements were found coincident within 1 σ . Age of samples is calculated using the conventional half-life of 5568 \pm 30 yr and is referred to the standard year, 1950. Errors are stated in terms of one standard deviation of counting statistics.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche for providing financial support.

SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

I. ARCHAEOLOGIC AND HISTORIC SAMPLES

A. Italy

Grotta Paglicci series

Charcoal and burnt bones from Grotta Paglicci on left side of Settepenne V on S side of Gargano promontory near Rignano Garganico, 15km E S Severo, prov Foggia, Apulia (41° 39' 8" N, 15° 36' 51" E). Coll 1971 and subm 1972 by A Palma di Cesnola, Ist Preist e Protostoria, Firenze, and F Mezzena, Museo Civ di Storia Nat, Verona.

Depth of deposit is, at this point of excavation, nearly 8m; 21 layers were distinguished. Grotta Paglicci consists in an atrium and a large internal hall, 6m \times 20m.

Samples dated belong to Layers 18-21. Layers 10 to 16 can be related to Grotta del Romito, Layer 34: 18,750 \pm 350 (R, 1967, v 9, p 358); Ugento, Layer 4 to 7: 14,170 \pm 170; 13,870 \pm 110 (*ibid*, p 359); Riparo Tagliente (R, 1970, v 12, p 599-601).

F-43. Grotta Paglicci 18, b2 a

Charcoal from Layer 18, b2. Final Gravettian industry.

14,260 \pm 280

12,310 BC

- F-44. Grotta Paglicci 18, b2 b** **20,200 ± 305**
18,250 BC
 Burnt bones from Layer 18, b2, together with charcoal of F-43. Layer contained Final Gravettian industry like Mochi shelter industry, Layer C, and Monte Longo (F-28) industry (R, 1973, v 15, p 483). *Comment:* F-44 date agrees with stratigraphy; F-43 sample appears contaminated; chemical treatment for 1st sample was: HCl 10%—NaOH 0.1N—HCl 10%; for the 2nd: HCl 10% for a 1st washing, afterwards a strong HCl leaching till destruction of organic fraction.
- F-45. Grotta Paglicci 18, b3** **20,160 ± 310**
18,210 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 18, b3, Final Gravettian type industry. F-45 was given only standard pretreatment. Date for this sample, with new direct line for CO₂ production: 20,380 ± 350 confirms other date.
- F-46. Grotta Paglicci 19, a** **20,730 ± 290**
18,780 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 19, a. Layer 19 is named “transition layer” because upper part is similar to deepest part of Layer 18, and lower part resembles top of Layer 20, linking Final Gravettian to Evolute Gravettian age.
- F-47. Grotta Paglicci 20, b** **21,260 ± 340**
19,310 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 20, b. Evolute Gravettian type industry. Layer 20 is typologically parallel with Perigordian V, 2 of W Europe.
- F-48. Grotta Paglicci 20, ca** **22,220 ± 360**
20,270 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 20, c.
- F-49. Grotta Paglicci 20, cb** **22,110 ± 330**
20,160 BC
 Burnt bones from Layer 20, c, together with charcoal F-48. Evolute Gravettian age; both samples had standard pretreatment. Difference between 2 ages is not very significant.
- F-50. Grotta Paglicci 20, de** **22,630 ± 390**
20,680 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 20, de. Evolute Gravettian type industry.
- F-51. Grotta Paglicci 21, a** **23,040 ± 380**
21,090 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 21, a. Evolute Gravettian type industry with blade of “La Font Robert”. Typologically parallel with Perigordian V, 1 in W Europe.
- F-52. Grotta Paglicci 21, b** **23,470 ± 370**
21,520 BC
 Charcoal from Layer 21, b. Same industry as F-51.

F-53. Grotta Paglicci 21, c **24,210 ± 410**
22,260 BC

Burnt bones from Layer 21, c. Evolute Gravettian age.

F-54. Grotta Paglicci 21, c **23,750 ± 390**
21,800 BC

Charcoal from Layer 21, c, together with charcoal F-53. Difference between ages not very significant.

F-55. Grotta Paglicci 21, d **24,720 ± 420**
22,770 BC

Charcoal from Layer 21, d. Evolute Gravettian industry.

S Reparata series (inside)

Six more samples of charcoal and wood coll and subm 1972 by F Toker, archaeologist of S Reparata excavation. S Reparata is an Early Christian church beneath the present day Cathedral of Florence, Italy. They form a sequel to Samples F-10 to F-16 (Azzi *et al*, 1973). Samples were dated to clarify 3 major points about chronology of site: construction date of a large Roman house preceding church, destruction date of house, and foundation date of Early Christian church. The latter was dated stylistically at ca 6th century (Toker, 1972).

F-56. S Reparata, Q N 3 **1660 ± 80**
AD 290

Charcoal from a deep stratum very close to foundation of best preserved room of N side of Roman house. Date in 3rd or 4th century for expansion of N side is confirmed by other findings.

F-57. S Reparata, H 266, H N I **1495 ± 85**
AD 455

This charcoal sample was especially significant, having been found below level of mosaic floor and above intact floor of atrium of Roman house. Date could well indicate a period in which house was no longer functioning but before church was built. This date and that of F-58, point to 5th century for this intermediate period. This has already been suggested by presence of many crude groves on the site, which, in all probability, were erected by the barbarian invaders of Florence ca AD 410 to 490.

F-58. S Reparata, Q N 5 **1460 ± 85**
AD 490

Charcoal, from level -2.61m, from ruins at NW corner of Roman house. The 5th century ruins can be explained by hypothesis outlined above for F-57.

F-59. S Reparata, Zone R₂ **1405 ± 85**
AD 545

Charcoal from below mosaic level in S side of Early Christian

church. Date indicates last possible moment for laying of mosaic floor of church, and accords with stylistically proposed date of early 6th century, but a mid- or late 6th century date is also possible.

F-60. S Reparata, J 75, J S I **1805 ± 95**
AD 145

Charcoal from a low stratum, -2.40m, in very disturbed zone just E of atrium of Roman house in its final stage. Coin and ceramic dating indicate that house was begun in or near Augustus reign, but was evidently enlarged several times. Possibly, this area lay outside the original small house.

F-61. S Reparata, Piazza S Giovanni **880 ± 80**
AD 1070

Large charcoal chunk extracted by the Government Archaeol Service in Florence from a lime preparation pit directly W of site of S Reparata, during excavation between Cathedral and Baptistery of Florence in 1971. Pit was probably not used during construction of Early Christian church and was, instead, part of reconstruction of S Reparata in Early Romanesque style. Documents refer to rebuilding of church in mid-11th century, so that carbon sample is highly relevant.

F-17. S Reparata, Tomb 42 (remeasured) **705 ± 75**
AD 1245

Wood from coffin of Giovanni di Alamanno de' Medici, who died in 1353, was previously ^{14}C dated, almost a century too late (Azzi *et al.*, 1973). Second date falls slightly short of date of death but agrees with age of wood. The age obtained by CO_2 direct preparation is: 725 ± 75 and agrees very well with radiocarbon date.

F-62. Monate I, pirogue **940 ± 75**
AD 1010

Wood from pirogue discovered in Monate Lake, Varese, Lombardy ($45^\circ 48' \text{ N}$, $16^\circ 14' \text{ E}$), from a one-piece pirogue (type monoxile), 2.58m long, named Monate I. Coll 1971 by Castelletti and subm 1972 by M Mirabella Roberti, Sopr Antichità della Lombardia, Milano. Sample was dated (unpub, awaiting confirmation of date by submitter). First date: 970 ± 105 , agrees with 2nd date: 940 ± 75 . *Comment:* to extract humic acids from unpub sample, 3% NH_4OH was used, and for F-62, 0.1N NaOH extending treatment until total extraction.

F-63. Monate 2, pirogue **1580 ± 105**
AD 370

Wood from pirogue discovered in Monate Lake, Varese, Lombardy ($45^\circ 48' \text{ N}$, $16^\circ 14' \text{ E}$). Sample came from a 1-piece pirogue, 3.85m long, named Monate 2. Coll 1971 and subm 1972 by M Mirabella Roberti.

General Comment on pirogues: the submitter has not furnished any further documented evidence on pirogues. Therefore, we have no other information about depth of discovery and typology of pirogues.

REFERENCES

- Alessio, M, Bella, F, Bachechi, F, and Cortesi, C, 1967, University of Rome carbon-14 dates V: Radiocarbon, v 9, p 358.
- Alessio, M *et al*, 1970, University of Rome carbon-14 dates VIII: Radiocarbon, v 12, p 599-616.
- Azzi, C M, 1972, Costruzione e messa a punto di un impianto per datazioni tramite ^{14}C con il metodo a gas: Riv Sci Preistoriche, v 28, p 196-209.
- Azzi, C M, Bigliocca, L, and Piovan, E, 1973, Florence radiocarbon dates I: Radiocarbon, v 15, p 479-487.
- Broecker, W S, Tucek, C S, and Olson, E, 1959, Radiocarbon analysis of oceanic CO_2 : Internatl Jour appl Radiation and Isotopes, v 7, p 1-18.
- Toker, F, 1972, Gli scavi sotto il Duomo di Firenze: Notiziario di Archeol Medioevale, v 2, p 2-4.