

March 4, 2019

Letter to ¹⁴C laboratories

Dear all,

The attached is a short manuscript, "Radiocarbon dating and the protection of cultural heritage" with guidelines/best practices for radiocarbon laboratories to deal with requests for dating of antique objects. It follows on from a workshop in Zurich in Nov. 2017 and we will discuss it further at the Radiocarbon and Archaeology meeting at the University of Georgia this May.

Requests to date art works and artifacts, which are directed at radiocarbon laboratories, might be from private persons, antiquities dealers, auction houses or museums. We believe that objects, which might be from grey area of antiquities market should not be accepted for ¹⁴C analysis.

If they are accepted, it is difficult for any laboratory to check and prove legal status of antique objects. Moreover, each country has different regulations. However, we can at least do a minimum by asking questions of the submitters about the origin of the objects and provenances.

We would like to ask all the active radiocarbon laboratories who agree with the proposed procedure for ¹⁴C dating of antique objects to contact us via *Radiocarbon* Managing Editor Kim Elliott (kimelliott@email.arizona.edu). As stated in the manuscript we will have all the laboratories who have agreed listed on the web.

A google discussion group 'C14_Cultural_Heritage' https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/c14_ch can help us to communicate on these specific issues. Everybody is welcome to join.

Best wishes, Irka and Tim

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