

CENTRE OF RESEARCH AND RESTORATION OF THE MUSEUMS OF FRANCE: AMS RADIOCARBON DATES LIST 1

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ABSTRACT. The national project for the measurement of radiocarbon includes different scientific partners for the accelerator named ARTEMIS (French acronym for Accélérateur pour la Recherche en sciences de la Terre, Environnement, Muséologie Installé à Saclay), available to the scientific community since 2004 (Cottreau et al. 2007). The French Ministry of Culture uses this accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) facility at the request of archaeologists or curators of museums or of historical monuments. For the preparation of some samples, a laboratory has been installed at the Centre of Research and Restoration of the Museums of France, located in the Louvre Palace. In this report, the first data carried out on vegetal samples from museum objects or archaeological remains, dates are presented in terms of yr BP (before AD 1950).

SAMPLE PREPARATION

Pretreatment

The method used for vegetal samples (wood, charcoal, cotton, etc.) is based on a classical method. In order to eliminate all insoluble impurities (e.g. dust, sediments, and textile fibers due to the manipulation of museum objects), samples are first washed in an ultrasonic bath with ultrapure water. They then undergo the classical acid-alkali-acid (AAA) procedure. First, they are treated with a 0.5M hydrochloric acid HCl solution (VWR International, used as received) for 1 hr at 80 °C. After removing the supernatant with a glass pipette, the remaining fragments are rinsed with warm water until neutral. A similar treatment is achieved with an aqueous solution of 0.05N NaOH (prepared from a sodium hydroxide solution at 0.1N from VWR International), followed by a rinse with ultrapure water. Another acidic treatment (similar to the first one) is done to remove all the carboxylic carbon formed during the alkali treatment. Finally, the clean samples are dried overnight in a low-vacuum (100 mbar) oven at 60 °C.

Combustion and Graphitization

The organic fraction has been then combusted at high temperature (5 hr at 850 °C) under high vacuum (at 10⁻⁶ Torr) on a semiautomatic combustion bench, whose principle is based on those of the LSCE radiocarbon laboratory (Hatté et al. 2003). A portion of the processed samples (2–2.5 mg) is combusted in a quartz tube with 500 mg CuO (Cu(II) oxide on Cu(I) oxide heart for analysis, VWR International) and a piece of silver wire (99.95%, Aldrich). The combustion gases (H₂O and CO₂) are separated by cryogenic purification and the CO₂ is collected in a sealed tube. The graphitization (Cottreau et al. 2007) of the obtained CO₂ is achieved by direct catalytic reduction with hydrogen, using Fe powder (average particle size 10 m) as catalyst at 600 °C and with an excess of H₂ (H₂/CO₂ = 3). During this process, the carbon is deposited on the iron and the powder is mechanically pressed into a flat pellet.

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Measurements

All measurements have been achieved at the AMS facility of Saclay (France). The radiocarbon activity is calculated by comparing the measured intensities of the ^{14}C , ^{13}C , and ^{12}C beams from each sample with those of CO_2 standards, prepared with HOx (I) oxalic acid reference, in pMC (percent modern carbon) normalized with a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ at $-25\text{\textperthousand}$. The ^{14}C ages are calculated (Mook and van der Plicht 1999) by correcting the isotope fractionation $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, measured by AMS with the $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ ratio.

MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

Tupinamba Club, Inventory N° 71.1917.3.62, Quai Branly Museum, Paris, France (Métraux 1932; Richardin et al. 2007a; Delpuech 2009; Lavier et al. 2009)

This club, made from a very hard wood by the ethnic group Tupinamba (Brazil), was collected by André Thevet (1515–1590), cosmographer of King Henri II and François I. This weapon (*iwera pemme*) was used to ritually kill the war prisoners and was the object of particular attention before the execution of the captive who was then eaten. It dated from the 16th century, and thus is considered among the oldest pieces from the Americas in French museum collections.

SacA 8310 $450 \pm 50 \text{ yr BP}$

Wood samples from the decoration.

SacA 8311 $320 \pm 50 \text{ yr BP}$

Cotton samples from the decoration.

SacA 8312 $340 \pm 50 \text{ yr BP}$

Cotton samples from the decoration.

Chinese Manuscripts, Pelliot 2490 and 2547, National Library of France (BnF), Paris, France (Cuisance 2009; Richardin et al. 2010)

The 2 manuscripts come from the Library Cave at the Mogao near Dunhuang. They form a part of the collection acquired by the Sinologist and archaeologist Paul Pelliot (1878–1945) during his expedition in China and Central Asia from 1906 to 1908. These manuscripts were entrusted to the National Library of France in 1910. Pelliot 2490 dates to AD 952 and it is assumed that Pelliot 2547 was completed between AD 728 and 744.

SacA 8716 $1120 \pm 30 \text{ yr BP}$

Wood fragments from the stick (2490).

SacA 8718 $1275 \pm 30 \text{ yr BP}$

Wood fragments from the stick (2547).

SacA 8719 $1270 \pm 30 \text{ yr BP}$

Wood fragments from the stick (2547) (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8718 in order to confirm the result).

Bronze Lion Statue, Inventory N°YM36526, Sanaa Museum, Sanaa, Yemen (Demange et al. 2009; Richardin et al. 2009a)

Numerous charcoal fragments are inserted in the heart of this bronze statue, preserved by the National Sanaa Museum (Yemen). The restoration work was carried out at the C2RMF, Paris, France, under a cooperation agreement between the Yemeni General Organization for Antiquities

and Museums (GOAM) and the French Museum of Louvre. This statue would have been discovered during illegal excavations in the region of Wadi Harib, but it could come from Tanna (Arbach 2005). It appears to derive from the third quarter of the 1st century BC, according to the inscription.

SacA 14487	2145 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal Y1A.	
SacA 14488	2165 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal Y1B (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14487 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14489	2230 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal Y2.	
SacA 14490	2115 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal Y3.	
SacA 14502	2265 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal Y4.	
SacA 14503	2155 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal M.1.	

**Sculptured Posts from the Site of Pachacamac (Peru), Quai Branly Museum, Paris, France
(Moutarde 2006; Richardin and Lavier 2008)**

These 5 sculptured posts were brought by Captain Paul Berthon in 1910, who bought them as idols, excavated from the cemetery of Pachacamac. Their originality was questioned during their entrance to the collections of the Museum of the Man, in Paris. If they are authentic pieces, they dated to the Middle Horizon (AD 500–1000). They are now in display in the Quai Branly Museum in the Americas collection.

SacA 11061	940 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.502.	
SacA 11062	935 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.502 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 11061 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 11063	845 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.503.	
SacA 11064	835 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.503 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 11063 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 11120	965 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.504.	
SacA 11121	895 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.504 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 11120 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 11122	910 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.505.	

SacA 11123 **945 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.505 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 11122 in order to confirm the result).

SacA 11125 **910 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.506.

SacA 11126 **995 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragments from the post, Inventory N° 71.1911.21.506 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 11125 in order to confirm the result).

Funeral Masks from the Site of Pachacamac (Peru), Museum of Quai Branly, Paris, France (Richardin and Lavier 2008; Arriola 2009)

These 2 wooden masks were used as a part of the funeral *fardos* (funeral bags) and are displayed in the Quai Branly Museum in the Americas collection. They are estimated to date from the 6th to the 11th century AD.

SacA 11057 **630 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragments from the mask, old Ychsma culture, Inventory N° 71.1928.20.25@1.

SacA 11058 **1065 ± 35 yr BP**

Wood fragments from the mask, Wari culture, Inventory N° 71.1933.90.96.

Medieval Wooden Statue, Inventory N° 2006.3.1, Fenaille Museum, Rodez, France (Richardin et al. 2009b)

The Fenaille Museum of Rodez (Aveyron, France) recently has purchased a polychrome Roman wooden sculpture, which represents a Virgin in Majesty. The date of its fabrication is estimated between the 12th and the 13th century AD.

SacA 14051 **810 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragment.

SacA 14052 **860 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragment (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14051 in order to confirm the result).

Medieval Wooden Statue, Inventory N°87.2.170, Crozatier Museum, Puy-en-Velay, France (Richardin et al. 2009c)

This wooden sculpture, “Virgin and Christ Child,” from the Crozatier Museum, is thought to dated around the 12th century. The problem is whether the Virgin and the Child are contemporary or not.

SacA 14046 **735 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragment from the Child.

SacA 14047 **725 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragment from the Child (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14046 in order to confirm the result).

SacA 14049 **220 ± 30 yr BP**

Wood fragment from the Virgin.

SacA 14050	175 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment from the Virgin (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14049 in order to confirm the result).	
Medieval Wooden Statues, Lorraine Museum, Nancy, France (Richardin et al. 2009d)	
This collection of Roman statues is one of the most important in the French museums and dates from the 12th to 13th century AD.	
SacA 14031	845 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C76.1.	
SacA 14032	905 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C76.1 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14031 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14495	1020 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C76.1 (this is a repetition of the other sample from the statue in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14029	900 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C105.1.	
SacA 14030	965 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C105.1 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14029 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14494	955 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° C105.1 (this is a repetition of the other sample from the statue in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14037	340 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.8.6.	
SacA 14497	455 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.8.6 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14037 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14034	1140 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.8.23.	
SacA 14035	1135 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.8.23 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14034 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14039	420 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.1.	
SacA 14498	445 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.1 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14039 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 13756	715 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the Child, Inventory N° M.13.2.	

SacA 13757	730 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the Child, Inventory N° M.13.2 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 13756 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14493	740 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the Child, Inventory N° M.13.2 (this is a repetition of the other sample from the statue in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14045	280 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the Virgin, Inventory N° M.13.2.	
SacA 14500	330 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the Virgin, Inventory N° M.13.2 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14045 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 13754	290 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.3.	
SacA 13755	320 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.3 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 13754 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14492	250 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.3 (this is a repetition of the other sample from the statue in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14026	795 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.4.	
SacA 14027	830 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.4 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14026 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14041	615 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.5.	
SacA 14499	745 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° M.13.5 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14041 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 14024	190 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° 2007.0.2053.	
SacA 14025	275 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments from the statue, Inventory N° 2007.0.2053 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 14024 in order to confirm the result).	

Three Wooden Fragments from Sarcophagus A9 of the Basilica of Saint-Denis and Preserved by the Museum of National Archaeology, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France (Fleury and France-Lanord 1998; Richardin and Gandolfo 2009a,b)

These 3 fragments of boards from the Merovingian sarcophagus A9 of the Basilica of Saint-Denis have been dated to confirm and refine the results from the dendrochronology and also to confirm the archaeological hypotheses (the date is estimated at the second half of the 6th century).

SacA 13565	1640 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P1.	
SacA 13566	1590 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P1 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 13565 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 13567	1640 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P2.	
SacA 13568	1645 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P2 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 13567 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 13751	1685 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P3.	
SacA 13752	1680 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragment, Inventory P3 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 13751 in order to confirm the result).	

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Charcoal Samples from the Archaeological Site of Petit Paulmy at Abilly, Indre-et-Loire, France, Archeolab Museum, France (Richardin et al. 2008; Richardin and Gandolfo 2009b; Marguerie and Gaudin 2011)

These small charcoal fragments have been collected on the site of Petit Paulmy, France ($46^{\circ}56'31''\text{N}$, $43^{\circ}43'\text{E}$) and date from the Final Neolithic (between 3000 and 2000 BC).

SacA 14055	2670 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° J0021 c.IIa (z=240-235).	
SacA 14057	4110 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0096/2c c.IIa (z=250-245).	
SacA 14058	4080 ± 35 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0096/3 c.IIa (z=250-245).	
SacA 14060	1790 ± 80 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0095 c.IIa (z=245-240).	
SacA 14061	2725 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° J8095/4 C.IIa (z=245-240).	
SacA 14063	495 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° J6081 c.IIa (z=240-235).	
SacA 15018	2555 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0096/4 c.IIa (z=250-245).	
SacA 10604	4140 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0096/1 c.IIa (z=240-235).	

SacA 10605 **4125 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° K0096/1 c.IIa (z=240-235) (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 10604 in order to confirm the result).

SacA 10607 **4005 ± 35 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° J8095/4 c.IIa (z=245-240).

SacA 10608 **3950 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Inventory N° J8095/4 c.IIa (z=245-240) (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 10607 in order to confirm the result).

Charcoal Samples, Tetiaroa, Tahiti, France (Emory 1933; Vérin 1962; Sinoto and McCoy 1974; Richardin et al. 2009e)

Tetiaroa atoll ($17^{\circ}05'S$, $149^{\circ}30'W$) lies 50 km north of Moorea and Tahiti, in French Polynesia. The samples were collected by M Hardy under the stones of foundation of Marae (a square which was reserved for the religious and social activities of the Polynesian community) and could be dated of the period of their construction and perhaps the period when the atoll was populated.

SacA 15014 **370 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. N° 8.6-S1-C3.

SacA 15015 **485 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. N° 8.7-S8-C3.

SacA 15016 **310 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. N° 8.6-S7-C4.

SacA 15020 **365 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. N° 8.6-S7-C3.

SacA 15021 **370 ± 30 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. N° 8.6-S7-C3 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 15020 in order to confirm the result).

Charcoal Samples, Asgoumhati, Djibouti (Poisblaud 2004–2005; Richardin et al. 2007b)

Two series of excavations allowed discovering an important site of the recent prehistory of Djibouti: Asgoumhati. This sample of charcoal has been found in 2004, under a flat stone of a funeral monument of this culture, which was partially destroyed. Unfortunately, this sample does not date the monument but an occupation near it.

SacA 8015 **395 ± 20 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. YC12.

SacA 8016 **410 ± 25 yr BP**

Charcoal fragments, Ref. YC12 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8015 in order to confirm the result).

Charcoals, Goudours, Haute-Vienne, France (Richardin et al. 2007c; Joussaume et al. 2008)

These charcoals were collected from the dolmen of Goudours, so-called Cluzeau or Vergnes, located at Folles, Limousin, France.

SacA 8040	1615 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F7.	
SacA 8041	1580 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F7 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8040 in order to confirm the result).	
SacA 8042	130 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. G7 Passe IV.	
SacA 8044	400 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.3.	
SacA 8045	185 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.4.	
SacA 8046	365 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.7.	
SacA 8047	1485 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.17.	
SacA 8309	2070 ± 30 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6 dec I.	
Charcoal, Tuto Fela, Ethiopia (Joussaume 2007; Richardin et al. 2007d)	
A sample of charcoal was excavated in 1997 on the site of Tuto Fela in Ethiopia, by the team of Roger Joussaume, in charge of the archaeological mission. The sample was taken under the tumulus of anthropomorphic steles. The age is important, because it will allow knowing the end of the use of the site.	
SacA 8017	525 ± 25 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.G6.	
SacA 8018	575 ± 25 yr BP
Charcoal fragments, Ref. F6.G6 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8017 in order to confirm the result).	
Wicker and Wooden Ligatures Samples, Karadong Site, Xinjiang, Khotan Region, China (Debaine-Francfort 2001; Debaine-Francfort et al. 2001; Richardin et al. 2007e)	
In the southern part of the Taklamakan Desert in China's Xinjiang Province, Karadong was the capital of the ancient delta of the Keriya River at the beginning of Christian era. Once a caravan stop, the site bears the remains of a farming community, with a small fort and half-timbered dwellings. The samples come from levels of housing environment: vegetable ligature inside a wall of house KRD 42F, made of poplar, tamarisk, reeds, alluvium, and sand.	
SacA 8726	1705 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments extracted from the ligature, Ref. KRD45a.	
SacA 8727	1695 ± 30 yr BP
Wood fragments extracted from the ligature, Ref. KRD45a (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8726 in order to confirm the result).	

SacA 8728 **1590 ± 30 yr BP**
 Wicker fragments extracted from the ligature, Ref. KRD45b.

Wood Fragment of Coffin, Djoumboulak Koum Site, Xinjiang, Khotan Region, China (Richardin et al. 2007e)

In the Taklamakan Desert, Djoumboulak Koum (*Yuansha gucheng* in Chinese) was an oasis capital in the protohistoric delta of the Keriya River during the 1st millennium BC. The site itself is a complete ensemble: a fortified city in an irrigated environment, with its cemeteries outside its walls. It provides previously unknown information concerning settlement patterns of sedentary population in southern Xinjiang during the Iron Age. The samples were taken from a coffin, in Cemetery D.

SacA 8713 **2275 ± 30 yr BP**
 Wood fragment, Grave MD 13 (mummy), cemetery D, Ref. MD22.

SacA 8714 **2255 ± 30 yr BP**
 Wood fragment, Grave MD 13 (mummy), cemetery D, Ref. MD22 (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8713 in order to confirm the result).

Protohistoric Sites Discovered during the Survey of the Keriya River, Xinjiang, Khotan Region, China (Richardin et al. 2007e)

The samples were taken in various places discovered by the Franco-Chinese Archaeological Mission along the fossil courses of the Keriya River protohistorical delta in the Taklamakan Desert. A survey of this delta has provided evidence of a totally unknown human habitation with a rich pastoral and agricultural history along the dried-up waterways through which the Keriya once coursed.

SacA 8711 **2205 ± 35 yr BP**
 Plant textile, braided cordon, site 71*, Ref. PROSP 37v.

SacA 8712 **2255 ± 30 yr BP**
 Plant textile, braided cordon, site 71*, Ref. PROSP 37v (this is a repetition of the previous sample SacA 8711 in order to confirm the result).

SacA 8714 **2235 ± 30 yr BP**
 Wood fragment from a coffin, site 73*, Ref. PROSP 38.

SacA 8315 **4020 ± 35 yr BP**
 Fragment of timber of a house, site 83*, Ref. PROSP 41.

SacA 8316 **2105 ± 30 yr BP**
 Charcoal, hearth, site 85*, Ref. PROSP 42.

SacA 8317 **2200 ± 30 yr BP**
 Charcoal from the inferior level (under M5), site Liushui*, Ref. PROSP 43.

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