August 31, 1979

Clifford Evans

5 charcoal samples for C-14 dating from Ponape, Caroline Islands, Micronesia Pankatera site.

Robert Stuckenrath

From the work done on Ponape in 1963 by Riesenberk, Evans and Meggers we had submitted 3 samples from a ceremonial ash mound and you gave us C-14 dates SI-90 - 520 B.P. ± 65, SI-91 - 690 B.P. ± 50 and SI-92 of 770 BP ± 60. From some fireplaces in the houses we had 5 samples (2 from one fireplace and 3 from another). We had not submitted these because we thought the whole area had been disturbed by the Japanese who lived in the area from World War I - World War II. One of these fireplaces had an old glass rum bottle fragment that could have been from early contact with English or Germans. However, recently Hesse identified the faunal remains from all the fireplaces and the 2 from which we had charcoal samples do not give any fauna that could not have been aboriginal. Therefore, since we are now back on this monograph, it was felt by Riesenberk, Evans and Meggers that it would be worthwhile to see if we can get some dates from the 2 fireplaces to see if the time span is similar to the Idedh Ceremonial ash mound which you dated some years ago. We warn you that there is a possibility that any or all of the samples may give you a recent date, but we do feel that it is worthwhile to date them now so we can include them in the monograph in preparation. Let's just hope they are not contaminated by recent occupation; the bohns were not. Full explanation of situation is on form Ponape No. 10.

Saul says this is his last gasp before he retired Sept. 5, 1979, but that he does plan to push ahead his portion of the Ponape ms. immediately and we are on ours.

Attached forms for Ponape Cat. No. 10 - Unit I, Fireplace 1, 20 - 30 cm.
No. 11 - ditto , 30 - 40 cm.

Ponape Cat. No. 40 - Unit I, Fireplace 2, 0 - 10 cm.
No. 41 - ditto , 10 - 20 cm.
No. 42 - ditto , 20 - 30 cm.
Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet
Date rec'd. in CD Lab__R&O JAN 9 1964

PONAPE Sample No. 1

(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)
Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archeology, US National Museum
Tel. No. 5423

Po-C-14 Sample No. 1
Ident. No. Cat. No. Po-53
Date submitted Dec. 3, 1963

Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience From Trench in North Side of Mound of Site P-2; Iolea, Ponape, Caroline Island.

N 6° 50' 17"
Latitude

Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archeol.) Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash mound at a point 3.50 meters in from base of mound of ash and 1.20 meters from surface. Around hearth area with basalt columns and burn coral nearby.
Stratigraphic position (geol.)

Date collected Feb. 18, 1963
By Evans, Naggema and Riesenberg

Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In Plastic bag.

Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.

Relevant publications None; field work now being written up and worked on by the three collectors.

Reprints enclosed ______ Photos enclosed ______ Maps, sketches ______

Approximate age, if available. Sheer guess only possible. Should be younger than Ponape Samples No. 2 and No. 3, circa 1400 A.D. a wild guess!

Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available from other method of investigation)

Very important to get in sequence with samples Po-2 (#Po-57) and Po-3 (#Po-59). All these samples are in a matrix ash midden where ceremonial fires were made using basalt columns and coral to form a hearth. It is possible that the coral dredged from the lagoon will cause contamination of the sample and give an abnormally old date. If required we have coral samples from the trench that can be dated as control to see what they might do to the charcoal samples. Very important to work out the sequence of dates to show how much time elapsed from base of mound with first hearth to top of mound in order to study problem of length of occupation of site.

(Original and 1 copy to be submitted with sample)
Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet

FONAPE Sample No. 1

(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)

Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archeology, U.S. National Museum
Tel. No. 5423

Po-C-14 Sample No. 1

Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience From Trench in North Side of Mound of Site R-2: Idehd, Fonafo, Caroline Island.

N 6° 50' 17"
Latitude

E 158° 20' 15"
Longitude

Excavation coordinates and Level (archeol.) Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash
mound at a point 3.50 meters in from base of mound of ash and 1.20 meters from
surface. Around hearth area with basalt columns and burn coral nearby.

Stratigraphic position (geol.)

Date collected Feb. 18, 1963 By Evans, Maggers and Riesenberg

Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In Plastic bag.

Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.

Relevant publications None; field work now being written up and worked on by
the three collectors.

Reprints enclosed Photos enclosed Maps, sketches

Approximate age, if available: Sheep guess only possible. Should be younger than Fonafo
Samples No. 2 and No. 3, circa 1400 A.D. a wild guess!

Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be
obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available
from other method of investigation)

Very important to get the sequence with samples Po-2 (Po-57) and
Po-3 (Po-59). All these samples are in a taphonomic ash midden where
ceremonial fires were made using basalt columns and coral to form a
hearth. It is possible that the coral dredged from the lagoon will
cause contamination of the sample and give an abnormally old date.
If required we have coral samples from the trench that can be dated
as control to see what they might do to the charcoal samples.

Very important to work out the sequence of dates to show how much time
elapsed from base of mound with first hearth to top of mound in order
to study problem of length of occupation of site.

(Original and 1 copy to be submitted with sample)
Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet

R&O JAN 9 1964
Date rec'd. in CD Lab

R&O Ident. SI-91
Priority

Ponape Sample No. 2
(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)
Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archeology, U.S. National Museum
Tel. No. 5429
Po-C-14 Sample No. 2
Cat. No. Po-57
Date submitted Dec. 2, 1963

Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience From Trench in North side of Mound of Site F-2: Poned, Ponape, Caroline Is.

Latitude N 6° 50' 17"
Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archaeol.) Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash mound at a point in center of mound, 8.50 meters in from base of mound; 1.47 m from top of mound. Hearth area with burnt coral nearby. Mixed with dirt and rootlets

Stratigraphic position (geol.)

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963
By C. Evans, Meggers and Riesenber

Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In plastic bag.
Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.
Relevant publications None, field work now in preparation by three collectors.

Reprints enclosed Photos enclosed Maps, sketches

Approximate age, if available Older than Sample No. Ponape C-14 No. 1 (Cat. No. Po-51)
Sheer guess at circa 200 years older than this sample.

Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available from other method of investigation)

See comments on Sample No. Ponape Carbon -14 No. 1 (Po-51).
Division of Radiation & Organisms  
Carbon Dating Information Sheet  
Date rec'd. in CD Lab  

Ponape Sample No. 2

(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)

Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archaeology, U.S. National Museum

Po-C-14 Sample No. 2  
Ident. No Po-57  
Cat. No. Date submitted Dec. 2, 1963

Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience  
From Trench in North side of Mound of Site P-2: Iedeh, Ponape, Caroline Is.

Latitude N 6° 50' 17"  
Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archaeol.)  
Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash mound at a point in center of mound, 8.50 meters in from base of mound, 1.47m from top of mound. Hearth area with burnt coral nearby. Mixed with dirt and postlets.

Stratigraphic position (geol.)

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963  
By C. Evans, Meggers and Riesenberg

Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In plastic bag.

Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.

Relevant publications None, field work now in preparation by three collectors.

Approximate age, if available Older than Sample No. Ponape C-14 No. 1 (Cat. No. Po-53)

Sheer guess at circa 200 years older than this sample.

Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available from other method of investigation)

See comments on Sample No. Ponape Carbon -14 No. 1 (Po-59).
Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet
Ponape Sample No. 3

R&O JAN 9 1964

(Rquesting Office: Fill in all items below)

Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archeology, U.S. National Museum

Tel. No. 5423

Po-C14 Sample No. 3


Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience From trench in North side of Mound of Site P-2: Idedh, Ponape, Caroline Is.

Latitude N 6° 50' 17" Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archaeol.) Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash mound at a point near center of mound, 3.00 - 3.50 meters in from base of mound, 2.25 - 2.49 meters deep. Large charred lumps of charcoal in area 75 cm. in diameter. Recent finds still found at this depth in mound. Mixture of burnt corals nearby.

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, H.S. Meggers, and S.H. Riesenberg

Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In plastic bags.

Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.

Relevant publications None, fieldwork now in preparation by three collectors.

Reprints enclosed Photos enclosed Maps, sketches

Approximate age, if available Older than Sample No. Ponape C-14 No. 2 (Cat. No. Po-57)

Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available from other method of investigation) See detailed comments under Ponape Sample No. Ponape Carbon -14 No. 1 (same Cat. No. Po-53).
Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet

R&O JAN 9 1964

Ponape Sample No. 3

(Removed Office: Fill in all items below)

Submitted by Clifford Evans, Curator, Div. of Archaeology, U.S. National Museum
Tel. No. 5423

Po-C614 Sample No. 3

Description of material (give genus, species, and who identified it, if applicable)
Charcoal

Provenience From trench in North side of Mound of Site P-2: Idedh, Ponape, Caroline Is.

Latitude N 6° 50' 17"
Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archaeol.) Stratigraphic cut (trench) through ash mound at a point near center of mound, 8.00 - 8.50 meters in from base of mound, 2.25 - 2.45 meters deep. Large charred lumps of charcoal in area 75 cm in diameter. Artifacts still found at this depth in mound. Mix of burnt coral and shell nearby.

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, E.M. Meggers, and S.H. Riesenber
Affiliation Smithsonian Institution

How was sample packed in the field? In plastic bags.
Was sample treated with preservative, etc.? What? No.
Relevant publications None, fieldwork now in preparation by three collectors.

Reprints enclosed ______ Photos enclosed ______ Maps, sketches ______

Approximate age, if available Older than Sample No. Ponape C-14 No. 2 (Cat. No. Po-57)
Circa 1000 A.D. is a sheer guess.
Importance of sample (including reason for submitting sample, kind of information to be obtained, relationship to other samples already analyzed, and information available from other method of investigation) See detailed comments under Ponape Sample No.
Ponape Carbon-14 No. 1 (See Cat. No. Po-53).