

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 Riessenberg, 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. \pm 65, SI-91 - 690 B.P. \pm 50 and SI-92 of 770 BP \pm 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 Riessenberg, 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 bones 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 B, Fireplace 2, 0 - 10 cm.
No. 41 - ditto, 10 - 20 cm.
No. 42 - ditto, 20 - 30 cm.

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Division of Radiation & Organisms
Carbon Dating Information Sheet

R&O JAN 9 1964

R&O Ident. SI-90

Date rec'd. in CD Lab _____

Priority _____

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

Ident. No. Po-C-14 Sample No. 1
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: Idehd, Ponape, Caroline Island.

N 6° 50' 17"

Latitude ~~13° 58' 00" S~~

Longitude E 158° 20' 15"

Excavation coordinates and Level (archaeol.) 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, 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 being written up and worked on by the three collectors.

Reprints enclosed _____

Photos enclosed _____

Maps, sketches _____

Approximate age, if available Best 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 ~~shallow~~ 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)

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R&O Ident. SI-91

Date rec'd. in CD Lab _____

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. 5423

Po-C-14 Sample No. 2

Ident. No. Cat. No. Po-57

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: 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 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 rootlets.

Stratigraphic position (geol.) _____

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, B.J. Meggers and S.H. 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-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-53).

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R&O Ident. SI-91

Date rec'd. in CD Lab _____

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. 5423

Po-C-14 Sample No. 2

Ident. No. Cat. No. Po-57 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: 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 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 rootlets.
Stratigraphic position (geol.) _____

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, B.J. Meggers and S.H. 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-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-53).

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R&O JAN 9 1964

R&O Ident. SI-92
Priority _____

Date rec'd. in CD Lab _____
Ponape Sample No. 3

(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)

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

Tel. No. 5423

Ident. No. Po-C-14 Sample No. 3
Cat. No. 20 Po-59 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: Idedh, Ponape, Caroline

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. Receptacles still found at this depth in mound. ~~Some~~ Burnt corals nearby.

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, B.H. 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 (Cat. No. Po-53).

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R&O JAN 9 1964

R&O Ident. SI- 92

Date rec'd. in CD Lab

Ponape Sample No. 3

Priority _____

(Requesting Office: Fill in all items below)

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

Tel. No. 5423

Ident. No. Po-C014 Sample No. 3
Cat. No. Fe-59 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: 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. Nestlets still found at this depth in mound. ~~XXXXX~~ Burnt coral nearby.

Date collected Feb. 19, 1963 By C. Evans, B.H. 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. Fe-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 (Cat. No. Fe-53).