

LABORATORY OF TREE-RING RESEARCH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

The symbols used with the inside date are:

- year - no pith ring present
- p - pith ring present
- fp - the curvature of the inside ring indicates that it is far from the pith
- ±p - pith ring present, but due to the difficult nature of the ring series near the center of the specimen, an exact date cannot be assigned to it. The date is obtained by counting back from the earliest dated ring.
- ± - the innermost ring is not the pith ring and an absolute date cannot be assigned to it. A ring count is involved.

The symbols used with the outside date are:

- B - bark present
- G - beetle galleries are present on the surface of the specimen
- L - a characteristic surface patination and smoothness, which develops on beams stripped of bark, is present
- c - the outermost ring is continuous around the full circumference of the specimen. This symbol is used only if a full section is present
- r - less than a full section is present, but the outermost ring is continuous around available circumference
- v - a subjective judgment that, although there is no direct evidence of the true outside on the specimen, the date is within a very few years of being a cutting date
- vv - there is no way of estimating how far the last ring is from the true outside
- +
- ++ - one or more rings may be missing near the end of the ring series whose presence or absence cannot be determined because the specimen does not extend far enough to provide an adequate check
- ++ - a ring count is necessary due to the fact that beyond a certain point the specimen could not be dated

The symbols, B, G, L, c and r indicate cutting dates in order of decreasing confidence, unless a + or ++ is also present.

The symbols L, G, and B may be used in any combination with each other or with the other symbols except v and vv. The r and c symbols are mutually exclusive, but may be used with L, G, B, + and ++. The v and vv are also mutually exclusive and may be used with the + and ++. The + and ++ are mutually exclusive but may be used in combination with all the other symbols.