



Anthropology
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

May 7, 2012

The application to export South African heritage material is made to support the AMS radiocarbon dating and analysis of newly accessioned human skeleton material held at the University of Cape Town, Department of Human Biology. Each of the units listed has been received by the Forensic Anthropology unit, under the direction of Prof. Alan Morris. The detailed archaeological context is sometimes known and sometimes not. They have been determined to hold no forensic relevance because of their obviously ancient time since death. They have been inventoried, but their future research value is contingent on determination of their antiquity through dating. In addition, I list two skeletons that are temporarily held by the archaeology contracts office of the Archaeology Department, UCT. As with the others, a date for each is a crucial step to determining their research value.

I propose to export a single rib, normally the right 6th rib, from each skeleton. Each sample will be photographed, with that image provided to UCT. I will send a portion of each rib to Oxford for radiocarbon dating. Another portion of the rib I will prepare as a histological section, from which I will estimate the person's age at death. It is this procedure that dictates the identification of a specific rib, whenever possible. I hope I will also be able to determine something about the adequacy of the person's diet from the pattern of bone remodeling. This is an ongoing research question. This research, including the dating, is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Prof Morris will be attending a conference in Toronto in mid-June. He has offered to personally transport the samples to me, if permission has been obtained prior to his departure. I will appreciate it if you can expedite this request. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Pfeiffer'.

Susan Pfeiffer
Professor