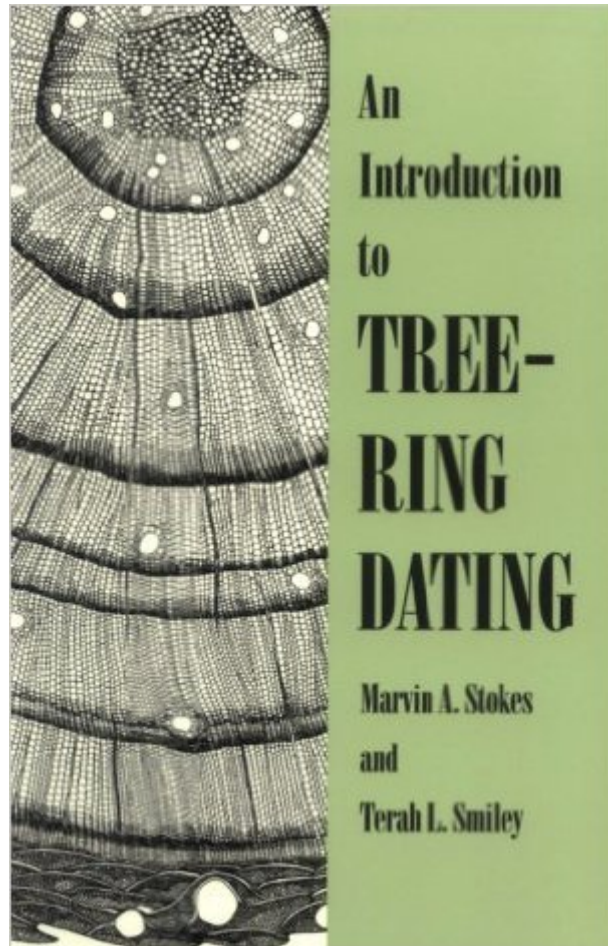


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# An Introduction To Tree-Ring Dating



## Synopsis

Tree-ring dating, or dendrochronology, is the study of the chronological sequence of annual growth rings in trees. This book--a seminal study in its field--provides a simple yet eloquent introduction to the discipline, explaining what a dendrochronologist does both in the field and in the laboratory. Authors Stokes and Smiley first explain the basic principles of tree-ring dating, then describe details of the process, step by step, from the time a sample is collected until it is incorporated into a master chronology. The book focuses on coniferous evergreens of the Southwest, particularly piñons, because they have wide geographic distribution, constitute a large population, and show excellent growth response to certain controlling factors. The book is specifically concerned with the task of establishing a calendar date for a wood or charcoal specimen. This concise but thorough explication of an important discipline will make dendrochronology more meaningful to students and professionals in archaeology, forestry, hydrology, and global change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the most cited references in dendrochronology for good reasons. The book is well illustrated, providing great information on the basics of dendrochronology, from mounting core to creating skeleton plots.

This is a very short introduction to the techniques of tree-ring dating. I picked it up because I have worked with the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research at the University of Arizona (where the field was invented), and was curious about how they collected their data. It's fairly old now, but from what I

can tell, many of the techniques remain virtually unchanged until it comes to the data entry and analysis. It talks about some pitfalls (missing or double rings) and how to correct for them. It's pretty technical, with a fairly short explanation of tree anatomy and why trees form rings at all; most of the text is devoted to the collection and preparation of samples, as well as dating, cross-dating, and compiling master chronologies. If you're even reading this review, you probably already have some interest in dendrochronology, and I urge you to buy it - it's a quick read, fairly inexpensive, and pretty much the seminal text in the area. Personally, I could have used a bit more explanation of tree growth, growth factors, etc, but there was enough to get me started. -Matt

I work at a college where a professor told me they would like to order this book. I did. They have not complained! The outside looks nice, I am sure the content is educational and informative as well.

If you're purchasing this book, you're probably taking a class on the material. This info is pretty well summarized in almost any other text book on the topic. That being said, it's cited a lot so it's not a bad reference item to have. It's also nice to get more of a "big picture" perspective without a ton of details bogging you down.

This book has a lot of very good information and the writing is really excellent. The explanations are very good, easy to understand and never leave the reader confused. However, the book is way too short. It is listed as having 73 pages which is already a short book, but even that is a stretch since there are many pictures, blank pages and other content free areas. I haven't done a count, but I would guess there are no more than 45 pages of actual written content.

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