

# Editorial

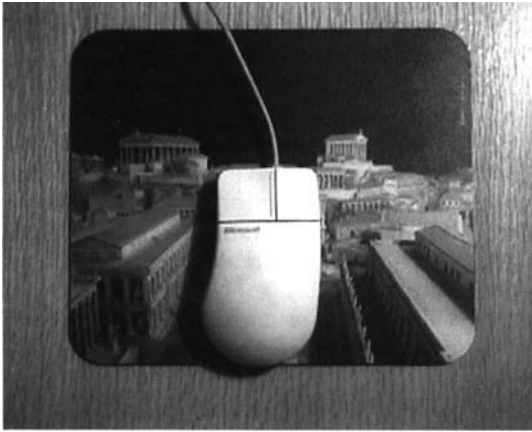
CAROLINE MALONE & SIMON STODDART

As we write, summer approaches, the mid-summer solstice is imminent, and Stonehenge again becomes the focus of attention. However, this year the meaning and interpretation of the great megalithic monument may be a little different, with the presentation here for the first time of an alternative idea about Stonehenge's meaning and function. MICHAEL PARKER PEARSON & RAMILISONINA have approached the old monument from the new angles suggested by recent studies of Stonehenge's landscape and monuments, and of Silbury Hill, and the West Kennet enclosures. Instead of a monument focused on sunshine and life, the new paper identifies a stone monument dedicated to death. Their arguments make persuasive reading, and we look forward to the reaction by readers and Stonehenge visitors alike.

For most readers, archaeology is an intellectual and academic pursuit. However, it also encourages a powerful and sometimes dangerous political interest in the past, where governments control or initiate investigations and interpretations. Several papers in this issue examine aspects of politics and identity in archaeology, past and present. The first independent government of 19th-century Guatemala was anxious to demonstrate its credentials by promoting various excavations at major Mayan sites. OSWALDO CHINCHILLA MAZARIEGOS' paper offers an unusual and important insight into the early researches of Latin America. More sinister, perhaps, but very timely, is the paper presented here by KLAUS JUNKER on the role of the German Archaeological Institute under the Nazis. As Junker demonstrates, the Institute had to resort to various ploys to survive a very difficult period in its history. Simon James' paper in the March issue, on the identity of the Celts, roused considerable reaction, especially in Scotland, where the imminent National Assembly has galvanized attention on the political future of the Celtic fringes of Britain. VINCENT & RUTH MEGAW have written to react to some of James' claims. They restate their own views

and offer an alternative to British academic attitudes to Celtic ethnicity which continue to be a lively, and surprisingly English, debate. NICK JAMES visited Korea to take part in a conference on the east Asian presentation of monuments, and provides here a brief account of the Asian issues he encountered there.

Politics was also much in evidence at the recent Society of American Archaeology conference in Seattle, USA, but from the point of view of Native American claims and debates. Over the years, the First Nation peoples have been acquiring a stronger and more insistent voice, particularly in relation to NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Native American issues have already featured prominently in the editorials of *ANTIQUITY* (65 (1991): 189, 917–20) and feature strongly in a whole issue of *Current Anthropology* (April 1998), but it is a good moment to outline recent developments in what is a widespread post-colonial problem. The setting of Seattle was appropriate since 19th-century Chief Seattle represented a dense population which focused on the modern Seattle area even before colonial contact. However, not all local tribal groupings, such as his Duwamish tribe, are currently recognized by the US government; indeed, over 150 tribes are not recognized. The current debate — at times passionately expressed by Native Americans — centres on the Hastings amendment which seeks to allow scientific investigation of archaeological remains, but with the potential loss of trust by Native Americans. Representative Doc Hastings' district (constituency) includes the well-known Kennewick find-spot of early human remains, which date from 8410±60 BP (UCR-3476) (c. 7300–7600 BC) and have been culturally affiliated with the Umatilla tribe, by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Representative has now taken it upon himself (following some consultation with North American archaeologists) to put the matter, as he considers, *right*. He proposes, by allowing



Mouse mat showing 3D reconstruction of Rome in the time of Constantine (and mouse).

a period for analysis, to increase the potential for scientific study of human remains, and by removing repatriation claims based *solely* on modern land claims by Native Americans. The SAA position is well expressed — the need for clear cultural or biological linkage between the ancient remains (material or biological) and Native Indian populations, as well as the importance of scientific study, provided this does not cause offence to Native Americans. The issue is discussed further in terms of the new amendment ([http://www.saa.org/Government/Lobby/hr2893\\_analysis.html](http://www.saa.org/Government/Lobby/hr2893_analysis.html)) but the matter continues to be complex in terms of finding a compromise between the legitimate concerns of archaeologists and Native Americans. The only solution is a continuing dialogue to avoid misconceptions between the different parties. Even more complex is the transfer of the same issues to Europe. Peter Woodman (Cork) made the valid point in Seattle that the modern Irish nation relates its ancestry to the (pre-Christian) Celts but only worries about reburial when the dead are Christian. In a broader context than Ireland, that very reburial (as at Spitalfields, London) may employ a new rite (in that case cremation) which may differ from the burial rite (inhumation) originally intended.

One positive consequence of the increased interest in Native American thought is a more developed interest in symbolic interpretations. Whereas post-processual developments in Brit-

ain owe their origin to the reading of French philosophers, parallel developments in North America are, at least in part, a response to the reading of, and sensitivity to, the oral traditions of peoples historically related to the material culture studied by North American anthropologists. This broad point was made in Barbara Bender's (UCL) discussion of one of a number of sessions at the 1998 SAA which showed new directions away from standard processual thought. Two sessions in particular on cultural and dynamic landscapes respectively tackled a wide range of contexts with varying conditions of direct historical continuity: the American Southwest, Mesoamerica, the American Mid-West and Europe.

As we travel, we are amazed by the elaboration not only of museum displays but also of museum shops. The museum displays tend to present ever smaller amounts of material, but with an increasingly elaborate support of audiovisual equipment. The shops, conversely, are spreading in size and in the range of merchandise. The museum display of *Civiltà Romana* in Rome (in a Comune of Rome Museum) is much as left by a series of exhibitions inspired by Mussolini in the 1930s, but the development of museum shops in Italy has been dramatic. Whereas before the state employee in Italy could not be trusted to sell gifts, books or postcards, many shops in Italian museums have been subcontracted in the past few years to private enterprises. At the SAA we were able to buy a Society of American Archaeology mouse pad, but we challenge the SAA organizers to provide next year a mouse pad as imaginative as the 3D reconstruction of Ancient Rome in the time of Constantine available in Rome.

One admirable hotspot for museum development (currently recognized as the Cultural Capital of the Arab world by UNESCO) is Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. In recent years the Emirates, on the southern shores of the Persian or Arabian Gulf, have been made generously accessible to archaeologists, at a time when neighbours such as Iraq and Iran have been virtually closed to international research teams. Several of the Emirates have opened new museums, and there has been considerable investment in excavation, conservation and publication. Oil wealth can be put to many uses, and museums and archaeological exploration

2nd–1st-millennium BC  
grave number 66 at  
Jebel Al-Buhais  
(Sharjah). (By kind  
permission of Dr  
Sabah.)



are clearly areas that our discipline applauds. However, alongside this important development, some Emirates continue to develop their popular and commercial interests, at the expense of their traditional culture. In the week after Easter, Dubai (one of the larger Emirates) celebrated a week-long shopping festival, a baby crawling contest, a huge collective Kellogg's breakfast for 14,000 people, and held a nightly raffle for a brand new Lexus car. This conspicuous consumption had the limited merit of differing only slightly from the *potlach* celebrated in the last century on precisely the other side of the world.

Our recent visit to Sharjah offered us a brief insight into the rationale and energy currently being invested in culture and archaeology which we believe ANTIQUITY readers will prefer. In the last three to four years, this small state has opened a superb interactive museum of Natural History covering, amongst other themes, the life of the deserts and coasts of the Emirate. Then there is a splendid Archaeological Museum housing the latest in interactive museum technology and displaying recently excavated archaeological material in a most exciting and educational form. Nearby is a Science Museum, and in restored traditional Arabic buildings is an Islamic Museum, a restored fortress, an Art Gallery and Art Centre. Mainly the brainchild of H.H. Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi of Sharjah, the aim of the Museums is to inform and educate the people of the Emirate on their history, culture and environment, and encourage a responsible attitude to what is clearly a remarkable heritage. As in many other parts of the world, it is one under intense threat from modern commercialization and development of all types. We were privileged to visit some of the current archaeological sites

under exploration. Research of this key zone of the Arabian Gulf is still relatively recent and many archaeologists remain unaware of the substantial sites coming to light through systematic survey. These finds are now being publicized in local reports, monograph series such as the *Prehistory and Protohistory of the Arabian Peninsula* (printed in Riyadh), and in the West by volumes such as *The Arabian Gulf in Antiquity* by Prof. D. Potts (OUP 1990) and *Dilmun and its Gulf Neighbours* by Harriet Crawford (CUP 1998). In Sharjah, most impressive are 3rd–1st-millennium BC tombs, containing richly furnished collective graves. Similar museum developments and archaeological discoveries are being made in Abu Dhabi and the smaller Emirates, where the desert past is becoming the focus of national pride and interest. We illustrate the 2nd–1st-millennium BC grave number 66 at Jebel Al-Buhais, Sharjah (for further information, see [http://Sharjah-welcome.com/welcome\\_museums.htm](http://Sharjah-welcome.com/welcome_museums.htm)).

☞ In the current issue, we continue the theme of commemoration with JOHN MULVANEY's appreciation of the work of the Australian archaeologist FRED MCCARTHY, and MICHAEL RYAN describes the extraordinary contribution of the Irishman, FRANK MITCHELL, who did so much to arouse research on Ireland's prehistory and landscape.

#### Frederick David McCarthy (1905–1997)

Fred McCarthy's death in Sydney on 18 November 1997 marks the end of the first era of Australian archaeology. A staff member of Sydney's Australian Museum from 1920 until 1964, McCarthy then moved to Canberra to head the newly created Australian Institute of Aborigi-

nal Studies, retiring in 1971.

Like his exact contemporary at the South Australian Museum, Norman B. Tindale, their productive careers spanned those depressed decades when museums were the Cinderella of cultural institutions, commanding little support either from public or private sectors. Yet McCarthy published more than 300 works on an exhaustive thematic coverage across Australian and South Pacific archaeology, ethnology and rock-art.

In 1938, while Sydney's citizens smugly celebrated the sesquicentenary of white colonization, Fred vainly championed the cause of legislation to protect Aboriginal sites. Because his museum could not afford a vehicle for field-work, for decades he laboriously recorded rock-art in the Sydney region. In 1948 his visit to Arnhem Land as a member of the National Geographic-sponsored American–Australian expedition proved a formative opportunity. With Margaret McArthur, their time-and-motion observations of Aboriginal food-gathering activities anticipated later Man the Hunter enthusiasms (but their focus was on Woman the Gatherer).

McCarthy's subsequent museum handbooks on rock-art and material culture offered the most comprehensive studies then available. The first generation of academic prehistorians went armed with his essential *The stone implements of Australia* (1946), the stone tool typology manual compiled jointly with his wife, Elsie Brammell.

Fred was a modest, cheerful character with little formal academic training, yet the Australian National University recognized his vital contribution in 1980, awarding him an Honorary Doctorate of Science; he was an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

JOHN MULVANEY

**Frank (G.F.) Mitchell** *MRIA, FRS* born 15 October 1912, died 25 November 1997

Frank Mitchell, who died in November at the age of 85, had an active career as researcher, teacher and administrator spanning 64 years. His personal achievements were very distinguished but his effect was exceptional: as a teacher, and friend and supporter of the work of others, he had an impact far beyond his immediate circle.

He was born in Dublin in 1912 and attended the High School before becoming a student in

Trinity College. He began in Modern Languages but he soon switched to Natural Sciences. In retrospect, this was an obvious choice, given his childhood interest in nature and the devotion to field studies that he had already shown. In those more spacious times, changes of course were much more possible than they seem to be today and Mitchell studied geology, botany and zoology, then very much classroom- and laboratory-bound in Trinity College.

1934 was something of an *annus mirabilis* for Mitchell. Already a Scholar, he was awarded a gold medal on graduating that year and he also became Assistant to the Professor of Geology, a post which he held until 1940. During the same year, he was appointed by the Quaternary Studies Committee of the Royal Irish Academy to assist Professor Knud Jessen of Copenhagen in the project to study the history of Irish bog and glacial deposits. At a stroke, Mitchell gained access to a first-rate training in palaeobotanical field-investigation and interpretation and he became part of an important international scientific network. Pollen analysis and geology became the basis of his future scientific work but he soon became concerned with archaeology as Jessen and he worked on the context of archaeological finds in bogs.

The outbreak of the Second World War delayed things, but in 1949 Jessen's great work 'Studies in Late Quaternary deposits and flora history of Ireland' appeared in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*. Mitchell had contributed hugely to its content and had undertaken a good deal of the drudgery needed to bring it to publication. His own major contribution to palaeobotanical studies — a massive paper, 'Post-boreal pollen diagrams from Irish raised bogs', appeared in the same journal in 1956. By then, Mitchell had trained himself in archaeology and had begun his important series of excavations on Mesolithic sites (Rockmarshall, Co. Louth (1946; 1948); Toome Bay (1951); Sutton, Co. Dublin (1955 and 1971)) (Mitchell 1947; 1955; 1956; 1972). These greatly enriched our knowledge of the later phases of the Irish Mesolithic Period. The sites chosen were especially suitable for someone of Mitchell's rare abilities — he delighted in archaeological problems intertwined with ones of geological and palynological interest. His range was vast and his publications dealt with geology, geomorphology, botany, zoology, ar-



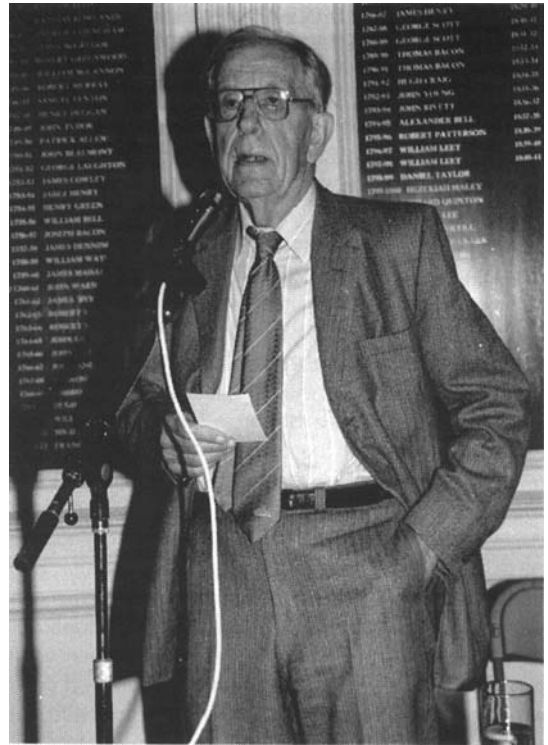
chitecture, early Irish art and many other topics. But there was nothing of the journalist about his writing — he made important contributions in all the subjects that he tackled.

He combined his scientific work with a long period of university administration and service to other bodies. He became Junior Dean in Trinity (1945–1951) where, as an authority figure, he was the original of a character in J.P. Donleavy's novel *The Ginger Man*. From 1952–1966 he was Registrar of the university, a time-consuming post in which he contributed greatly to the modernization of Trinity. In 1959 he was appointed Reader in Irish Archaeology and in 1965, Professor of Quaternary Studies, a chair created especially for him. He retired from teaching in 1979.

Frank Mitchell was a passionate advocate of environmental protection and was a founder of *An Taisce*, Ireland's leading voluntary organization promoting environmental protection. He later served as its President. He was President of the Zoological Society of Ireland (1958–1961), of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (1957–1960) and of the International Union for Quaternary Research (1969–1973). He was a distinguished and modernizing President of the Royal Irish Academy (1976–1979) and in 1989 the first recipient since 1885 of its Cunningham Medal for outstanding services to scholarship and to the aims of the Academy. Frank Mitchell's work was recognized by many other honours; he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1973. He was awarded honorary doctorates from a number of universities as well as honorary memberships of many learned societies including the Prehistoric Society.

Frank Mitchell was a superb and generous teacher. He was also very skilful at influencing public policy and he was instrumental in inspiring a number of important changes in the way heritage affairs are conducted in Ireland. (His presidential address to the Royal Irish Academy encouraged the Government to bring all the statutory councils dealing with environmental and archaeological protection together in one new body, The Heritage Council.) He made very significant practical contributions to nature conservation and he became a redoubtable witness in many planning cases.

After his retirement in 1979 Mitchell devoted most of his time to writing. He first published his *Irish landscape* in 1976, a revised edition appeared ten years later and in March of 1997



Professor Frank Mitchell speaking at the launch of *Reading the Irish Landscape*, Dublin, March 1997.

a third version largely rewritten, under the title *Reading the Irish landscape*, was published in collaboration with the writer. The first edition was a pioneering survey of Irish environmental history from the beginning to the present day and it is doubtful if any other author could have written such a broad survey drawing on such a diverse range of evidence with such authority. His *Archaeology and environment in early Dublin* (a first survey of the vast riches of environmental material from the National Museum's excavations in Viking and Early Medieval Dublin) appeared in 1987. It was followed two years later by *Man and environment in Valencia Island*, the fruits of many years' fieldwork in that part of Co. Kerry. There, Mitchell had created a number of palaeoenvironmental and archaeological research projects that are still continuing. His semi-autobiographical book *The way that I followed* (1990) was named in homage to Robert Lloyd Praeger, whose work *The way that I went* was one of the great foundation-stones of the modern Irish environmental movement. Mitchell's witty, sometimes optimistic, occasionally elegiac book is a delight

to read for an environmentalist's view of the emergence of modern Ireland, for insights into academic life and for descriptions of the countryside. All this was fitted into the author's imaginary journey around Ireland in time and space, stopping off at points determined by his fieldwork and life history. In 1993 he published *Where has Ireland come from?* and in 1994 *The Great Bog of Ardee* (with Breeda Tuite). At the time of his death, several papers by him were in press or awaiting review.

Mitchell's development late in life as a popular writer on environmental history was paralleled by his emergence as an accomplished broadcaster. He had become by stealth, in his retirement, something of a national figure. There is a paradox about this: Mitchell was a very idiosyncratic speaker. Although a superb lecturer, he was particularly prone to repeating phrases and sentences two or three times. The keen listener would have noticed that this apparent verbal freewheeling was often a cloak behind which he nailed down a point or passed a mordant comment on a nonsense. It worked well on the airwaves and his death was marked on national radio by a number of striking tributes.

Mitchell was very fond of reminding us that the best is the enemy of the good. He thought of himself as principally a maker of sketches and he regularly described himself as a 'first-approximation man'. It would be unwise to allow him to make the final judgement on his own work. He made a profound contribution to the study of environmental history and he challenged archaeologists and historians on their own ground. He provided us with a framework of landscape change in later Irish prehistory and early history that has deeply enriched the study of settlement and society. New work deals with the detail, the Mitchell framework is still in place. His work on Mesolithic sites was important and his discoveries form a significant part of Peter Woodman's clarification of the Irish archaeological evidence. Mitchell was never insular in his approach either in his environmental or archaeological work — he was an internationalist in his outlook and he maintained a worldwide circle of friends and colleagues.

Frank Mitchell was a kind and generous man — he was witty, unassuming and a delight to work with. His conversation was a special pleasure, informed and very funny. He belonged to an age, and to a tradition of education, which

fostered people of broad talents and enabled them to blossom. He had a long and useful life, full of achievement, and his passing is greatly mourned.

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As we, as editors, increasingly employ the internet to provide you with up-to-date information, we are increasingly conscious of the tenuous nature of this information. Will the URL reference we give you contain the same information when you, the reader, follow it up? How up-to-date is the information contained in that web site? This test can be applied to many departments of archaeology around the world. How old is your web site? Most archaeological departments and organizations now have their own web site, but the ultimate test is whether it is kept up to date. We intend to report back on our informal investigations in the near future!

One exhibition we visited in Vancouver had an ironic title: 'Recalling the Past'. This collection of Chinese ceramic and associated art was presented to the University of British Columbia by a Hong Kong businessman at the same time as an application for Canadian citizenship. It is an Ortizesque exhibition of ob-

jects devoid of context, even general locality in many cases, legally exported from Hong Kong, but crossing the border between China and Hong Kong before 1 July 1997, without legal authority. University of British Columbia professors protested in vain against the acceptance and public display of these clearly mishandled objects, and held a seminar on the theme in late March which worked towards the positive outcome of sensitizing the academic world and the public against repetition of these mistakes. North West coast artefacts have a sad history of dispersal (as recorded in the recent re-issue of *Captured Heritage. The scramble for Northwest Coast Artifacts*, by Douglas Cole (reprint with new preface 1995)) and it would be inexcusable if practices which were generally allowed by an earlier age should be repeated again in the 1990s.

☛ In the United Kingdom, the countryside movement, after sleeping for many decades (in contrast to our neighbour France), has arisen in protest. One of their targets is a *Consultation Paper: Access to the Open Countryside in England and Wales*, a set of proposals diluted from a statutory to a voluntary position. The stated aim of the UK government is exercise and good health. As Mediterranean archaeologists, we have always seen some ambiguous advantage in the complete freedom of the Mediterranean hunter to walk fields, unconsciously clearing the way for the archaeological field-walker to follow. Mediterranean archaeologists are able to uncover archaeological sites without challenge from the landowner, if at some risk from lead shot. Hunting freedom has never served the same archaeological purpose in the United Kingdom, since it has been a private preserve, both of the large commercial game-hunting operations of the big estates and of the smaller landowners in the countryside. The new proposals in Britain, to encourage voluntary codes for public access to open spaces apply principally to the open upland landscapes of Britain and so may not open up as many opportunities as originally envisaged. Furthermore, the increased access will bring problems of conservation not only of natural resources, but also of cultural landscapes which are at present insufficiently stressed in the discussion document. Comments on this document have to be submitted the Department of the Environment in

the week of publication of this issue of ANTIQUITY.

☛ We are pleased to present the ANTIQUITY Supplement for the first time. The aim of the extra pages is to provide you with current information on events, courses, publishers, exhibitions and provide a unique service to ANTIQUITY readers. We invite your ideas and reactions, and hope that you will use it, both as readers and contributors.

☛ The debate over Jinmium takes time to recede. Contradictory accounts of the date of this site were reported within 45 minutes of each other in the same Seattle SAA thematic session on Luminescence and Electron Spin Resonance Dating. The suggested dates for Jinmium were somewhat further apart. The second account, presented by Richard Roberts (La Trobe University), had much in common with our recent report by Spooner, and it is this younger vision of Jinmium which seems to be increasing in strength. Richard Roberts suggests that the oldest current sites in Australia are Malakunanja II and Nauwalabila I, currently dated to 50–60,000 BP.

☛ In the United Kingdom it is common practice among the tabloid (popular) press (especially those presses run by Murdoch) to hide errors in small print on an inside page. ANTIQUITY does not have a front page, but we do report any errors at the end of the editorial section. We continue this good practice in this issue where we reprint three figures from March. In this context, too, Jinmium seems to be fated, and the jinx certainly crept into the last ANTIQUITY, in the rapid and final moments of production, where we managed to mis-label NIGEL SPOONER's figure 1 and to switch the captions to figures 2 & 3. We publish them correctly overleaf, with profuse apologies.

Also at the foot of page 176 col. 1 the sentences should read:

'The published age-depth curve for the rock-shelter implies a slow and near-linear rate of sediment accumulation at  $\approx 7$  mm/1000 years in the so-called 'sediment trap'. Consequently the mean surface-layer residence time of a 100- $\mu$ m quartz grain exceeds 10 years, implying that quartz grains incorporated into the rock-shelter sediment following deposition as individual grains on the ancient surface will be completely reset at the time of burial.'

FIGURE 1. The bleaching of natural TL from an Australian sedimentary quartz by various exposures to UV-depleted 'white light'. The light source was a 1000 W solar simulator with 400 nm long-pass optical filtration; the beam strength was approximately that of clear-day sunlight, solar zenith angle 48°. The sample is from Lake Woods, Northern Territory; laboratory reference: LW, TD, 1m; further details, Hutton et al. (1984). The uppermost curve is for the unbleached sample, and the other curves are for different times of bleaching as shown. Note the 'overlap' of 375°C peak TL into the temperature region below 350°C (also seen, at about 160°C and 220°C, are TL peaks, generated by phototransfer in this case, which are too short-lived to be prominent in natural samples).

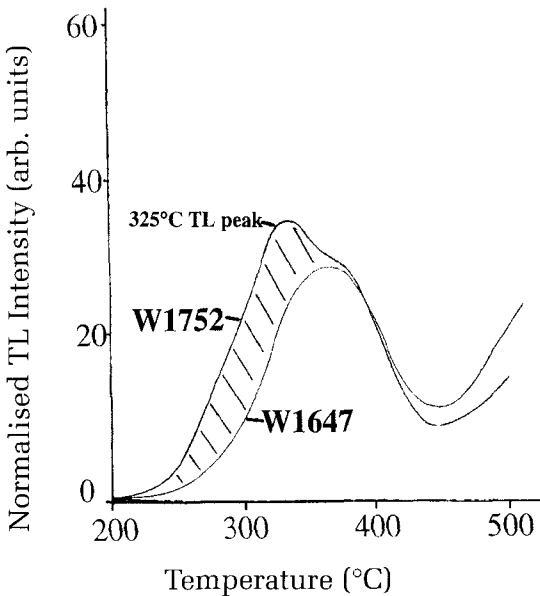
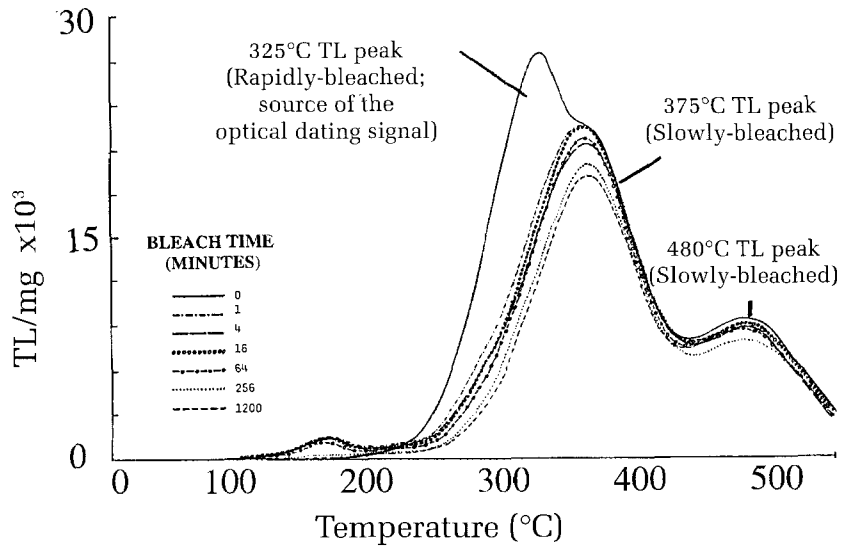


FIGURE 2. An overlay of the two published glow curves from samples W1647 (rock-shelter) and W1752 (sandsheet) gives a qualitative illustration of the relative deficiency of the rapidly bleached 325°C TL peak (shaded area) in the glow curve of the rock-shelter sample compared to that of the sandsheet sample. (After Fullagar et al. 1996: figure 21.)

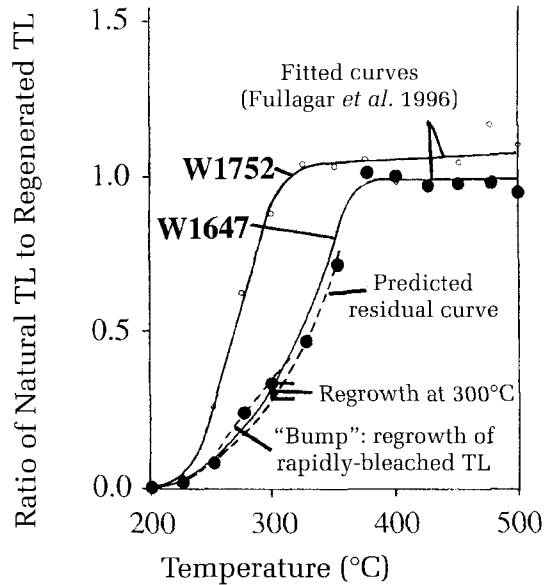


FIGURE 3. An overlay of the ratios for natural TL (NTL) to regenerated TL (NTL+UV+beta) for samples W1647 (rock-shelter) and W1752 (sandsheet). This presentation highlights the 'foreshortening' of the plateau from W1647 in the temperature range below 375°C due to the relative deficiency of 325°C peak TL in this rock-shelter sample.

The plateau from W1647 is given with the predicted residual shown in the <350°C temperature region, along with the 'bump' resulting from regrowth of the rapidly bleached peak which has occurred since last exposure to light. Also shown is the estimated regrowth at 300°C; see text for discussion of age reappraisal based on this regrowth. (After Fullagar et al. 1996: figure 19).