



BOOK REVIEWS

Shorelines and Isostasy, edited by D.E. Smith and A.G. Dawson, 1983. Institute of British Geographers Special Publication Number 16, Academic Press, 387p. US\$ 55.00, ISBN 0-12-652960-4.

This collection of fifteen research and review papers deals with various aspects of ancient shoreline deposits. The dominant theme is the use of preserved shore deposits for developing models of isostatic change.

The papers are grouped into four major sections: aspects of shoreline development, methodologies and techniques, shorelines and glacio-isostasy, and shorelines and hydro-isostasy. Topics in the first section include reviews on barrier sequences in the US and Australia by Hails, Arctic shore processes by Taylor and McCann, and shore platforms by Trenhaile.

The two papers in the methodology and techniques section were of particular interest. Gray presents a "how to" paper on raised shorelines. He discusses exactly what, why, and how a shoreline position is recorded and described. The article is based in Scotland, where raised shoreline records are precise, as the area is small and field logistics are simpler than in many more remote areas. Sutherland reviews and evaluates the various methods that have been employed for dating ancient shoreline deposits.

The largest section (7 papers) of this volume consists of a series of papers on sea level changes and shore positions in Norway (Hafsten), Finland (Eronen), Scotland (Sissons), Ireland (Devoy), England and Wales (Shennan), Hudson Bay (Peltier and Andrews), and British Columbia (Clague). These papers demonstrate the range of complexity, and range of states-of-the-art of interpreting ancient shorelines in these areas. They serve as good sources on these regions. The lone paper in the hydro-isostasy section by Hopley on deformation of the North Queensland continental shelf attempts to use a carbonate shelf setting to delineate subsidence due to the changing water levels.

An introductory review on isostasy and eustasy by Fairbridge and concluding "retrospect and

prospect" by the editors complete the book.

I found that the shore deposits described in the glacio-isostasy section didn't encompass the realm of shore forms described in the shoreline development section. Preserved lake and marine shorelines that do not seem to be barriers or platforms are mentioned frequently. This leads me to wonder exactly what they are, or what portions of a shoreline deposit are preserved in these areas.

This volume very thoroughly explores one particular aspect of deciphering isostatic changes: preserved raised shoreline deposits. It serves as a useful handbook on the techniques and experience in this area.

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The World's Coastline, edited by Eric C. Bird and Maurice L. Schwartz, 1985. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, 1071p. \$US 97.50, ISBN 0-442-21116-3.

The editors have divided shore zones of the world into 135 coastline sectors. The round-the-world sequence begins with Alaska and proceeds counter-clockwise around the major landmasses. World maps are provided on the end covers for easy geographic reference; each descriptive section is thus located by its numbered coastline sector, viz. "65. EASTERN BLACK SEA, USSR." Although this system is logical, it is sometimes somewhat less than convenient because it is the only geographic reference system in the book. Place names and general locations are not given in the index. As might be expected, the treatment and coverage of coastline segments is variable and of uneven quality. The 129 contributors to this compendium offer contrasts in ideas, perceptions, and interpretations. The variability of available maps and documentation also contribute to uneven coverage. In spite of these shortcomings, all coastline segments are represented and at least minimal coverage is assured for even the remotest places. From this point of view, the book is a treasure trove and will prove useful to