

matic section. A rudimentary knowledge of Spanish, or even Italian, allows a non-Portuguese speaking reader to make much out of what at first appears to be impossible reading. If I can find my way around the atlas, virtually anyone can do it! Some of the longer explanatory texts will present some problems for full comprehension, but these days most people have a Spanish-speaking friend who can help them out. An extensive reference list is included at the back of the atlas. Most references are in Portuguese, as should be anticipated, but some are in English as well.

I was impressed by the quality of work that went into the preparation of the atlas. This is a fine piece of work that will find its place among the best modern atlases in the world. For the coastal zone, this atlas may serve as an example of the high quality that is achievable with dedication of purpose and determination to produce a world class work. I strongly recommend this atlas for coastal and marine research libraries. Even for the private researcher, consultant, or professor at university, this atlas is not out of reach, price-wise, because it is available free from the government publisher.

Charles W. Finkl
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida, USA

Tsunami. The Underrated Hazard. Edward Bryant. Cambridge University Press, 320p.

This 320 page volume by Ted Bryant of Wollongong, Australia, reflects the author's passion for a subject that has been at the centre of his attention for just over a decade. The book is written as a semi-academic, semi-popular science volume, although in reality it is much more weighted toward the former than the latter. In style it disregards conventional referencing in favour of a list of relevant references at the beginning of each section, an approach which does make the book more readable for the non-specialist and yet provides source material for the enthusiast. Similarly, while not disregarding the dynamics of tsunamis, it aims to provide a written account that is understandable to the non-specialist (an approach that is largely successful). Perhaps an indication of the publishers attempt to appeal to the popular audience is the cover illustration 'The Hollow of the Deep-Sea Wave off Kanagawa' which the author acknowledges on page 3 to be a wind-generated wave rather than a tsunami.

The book is organised into several sections that deal with most aspects of tsunami (the same word is applied to the singular and plural in this volume) and their coastal impacts. The book's major sections are devoted to the following: tsu-

nami as hazards; tsunami-formed landscapes, causes of tsunami and the modern risk of tsunami. The book provides a sound grounding in the field and is systematically organised. The reader will find a comprehensive collation of sedimentary and erosional signatures of tsunami, some of them readily acceptable, and some that require a leap of faith. In this, Bryant is clear in stating that he is on the fringes of conventional science. Indeed, the reader will find a number of incredible coastal landform features ascribed to tsunami, particularly forms in the erosional signatures of tsunami section (e.g. flutes, grooves, ramps, arches and whirlpools all cut into bedrock). Mega-tsunami are presented as the formative agent, although because of the infrequency of occurrence of such events, none has been recorded in historical times. Nonetheless nothing is presented in this section that has not appeared before in peer-reviewed articles and collectively the bedrock-sculpted forms present a more compelling case for tsunami-genesis than individually.

One of the central themes of the book is the risk posed by tsunami, given the various modes of genesis (which are dealt with in some detail). Bryant points out the large number of recorded tsunami (and those known from folklore) and presents a case for considering them a genuine, though unpredictable risk around the entire world's coastline. Accounts of impacts are presented from a variety of sources and the scale of the risk is brought home to the reader by accounts of enormous measured runup heights. Just as the book starts with several accounts of tsunami impacts (some of which are folklore), it concludes with several hypothetical accounts to illustrate the potential risk. Designed to shock the reader into taking the hazard seriously, one section certainly shocked me as it painted a picture of the impacts of a tsunami in a non-seismic area (the northwestern Irish coast), generated by a submarine slide and wiping out coastal residents including students of my University! Granted, a precedent existed in the Storrega slide off Norway c. 8000 BP, but tsunami are not currently high on the disaster planning priority list in Ireland.

I found the book easy to read and well illustrated. It does, however, suffer from a lack of adequate proof reading; numerous typing errors and breaks in syntax are present throughout the text. Nonetheless, I enjoyed reading this book—I couldn't put it down—and would recommend it to specialist and interested coastal researcher alike. It provides much food for thought and the scale of tsunami impacts presented is so radical to those unfamiliar with Bryant's earlier work, that it is likely to stimulate researchers to question conventional interpretations of their coastal landscapes.

Andrew Cooper
Coleraine
Northern Ireland