way to remedying this view. Approach varies from chapter to chapter, in some cases it is analytical (edge waves, computer models), in others technical (beach nourishment) and others descriptive or factual (barrier islands, various case studies). Both “soft” (beaches) and “hard” (cliffs) coasts are covered, inclusion of the latter makes a refreshing change. Most of the material is “recycled” rather than original. The slight exception to this being the outstanding summary of their seminal work on beach morphodynamics by Lynn Wright and Andrew Short. Some of their material was included in a University of Sydney technical report in 1982, but this is its first genuine appearance.

Obviously both editor and authors have tried hard to make this a handbook. At times this becomes somewhat forced, especially in the edge wave chapter by Robert Holman. I feel that this chapter, on a difficult subject, coming right at the start of the book, might leave the uninitiated rather bemused. The case studies are interesting, but perhaps do not offer the insights into erosion problems that were intended, apart from reinforcing the lessons of caution and scientific appraisal. That two of the case studies are located on a coast described as atypical by Wright and Short is a mite unfortunate.

The two chapters on cliffs are very welcome. Sunamura’s extensive review has been needed for years. He is to be congratulated on his thoroughness.

The problems of shoreline response to water level rise receive exhaustive coverage. Perhaps someone will explain one day why the Bruun Rule is such a beloved concept. Most Europeans find it blindingly obvious, hardly meriting the attention it gets. Notwithstanding, Hands’ careful documentation of erosion in Lake Michigan is interesting, but possibly off-putting to those with less resources than the USGS.

In short the book is very good. There are very few errors — “model numbers” for “modal numbers” in chapter 2, and irritating subscript errors in chapter 7 were about all I spotted. There are one or two odd passages — Hands provides yet another incorrect definition of “ridge and runnel,” and Nummedal’s comment that “sea-level in Europe has fluctuated by one meter in last millenium” is a wild generalization. Maybe the book could have done with a chapter on long-term sea-level change, and another covering some of the ideas put forward by Silvester, Tanner, Leblond, et al. on shoreline equilibrium. But these are minor quibbles. A pity the price is going to restrict the volume to library sales.

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An updated and revised version of the 1977 edition (Wiley-Interscience), this book remains a classic in the field of coastal management. The volume is divided into seven chapters, the seventh being an amalgam of short contributed articles covering some forty different topics. The seven appendices likewise deal with widely ranging topics but provide cogent summaries. The tabular, graphic, and textual matter should assist planners and managers in technical aspects of program design and implementation. A glossary and subject index follow.

The chapters prepared by Dr. John Clark include Ecology (Chapter 1), Managing for Optimum Carrying Capacity (Chapter 2), Classification and Survey of Natural Systems (Chapter 3), The Management Framework (Chapter 4), Management Opportunities at the Local Level (Chapter 5), and Guidelines and Standards for Coastal Projects (Chapter 6). Chapters are clearly organized and feature sections that are headlined as “guidelines” and which are followed by recommended “implementations.” This direct style thus focuses attention on possible solutions to problems facing the coastal manager.

Each chapter is well illustrated with line drawings and photographs. Many of the photos and some drawings have, however, suffered from reduction to fit the smaller page format of this edition. These over-darkened and blurred illustrations are fortunately the exception and not the rule.

The chapters are well documented by primary source materials but many of the references cite ephemeral literature (interim reports, leaflets, and various and sundry government agency documents). Here, there at least remains a permanent record of hard-to-find source materials. This is a credit to the volume because much of the ephemeral literature eventually gets lost in the shuffle, even by those of us that collect as many miscellaneous reports as possible. The numbered references are, however, an annoyance as they necessitate paging
back and forth to the reference sections to see who said what. Dr. Clark is to be commended for collecting a vast array of reference materials that will no doubt be useful to those not familiar with all the rules, regulations and ecological conditions for particular coastal regions.

There are some repetitive sections but this is almost unavoidable due to the interdisciplinary nature of coastal management. Coastal planners and managers will be pleased to find the compendium “Coastal Ecosystem Management” back in print after a hiatus of several years.

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In Coastlands the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has compiled a useful handbook for coastal conservation professionals and amateurs alike. Although specifically about the shoreline stabilizing plants of the British Isles, the techniques and tools recommended have world-wide application. Indeed, many coastal plants commonly growing in Great Britain are familiar to coastal workers throughout the temperate zones of both hemispheres.

The 120 spiral-bound pages are divided into seven chapters (A Look at Coastlands; Coastal Conservation Management; Coastlands and the Law; Safety, Equipment and Organisation; Dune Stabilization; Access Control; Vegetation Management), four appendices (Conservation and the Volunteer Worker; Site Studies and Surveys; The Coastal Code; Conservation and Amenity Organizations), an annotated bibliography, and concise glossary. All phases of dune revegetation, from need-determination through species selection, planting procedure, and finally protection via access control are clearly explained. Simple line drawings scattered throughout the text illustrate various planting and protection schemes, proper use of tools, and numerous vascular plants and algae discussed in the book.

American readers may be surprised to discover that cord grass, a hybrid of Spartina maritima and Spartina alternifolia, is regarded as a weed by British workers. Spartina alternifolia is an important stabilizing plant in the United States and, particularly in the northeast, used extensively to stabilize salt marshes. Coastlands devotes four pages to its control and eradication via rooting-out, poisoning, mowing, and smothering.

For groups contemplating dune-restoration projects, this book is a “must” acquisition and its practical value will be immediately apparent while reading such helpful tips as avoiding back-injury while moving sand piles around (start at the bottom not the top) and how to “swim” out of deep mud on one’s back. Combining Coastlands with various Coastal Engineering Research Center (Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, Mississippi) publications will provide a well-rounded instruction manual for American workers by introducing plant species favored in this country.

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This 3rd edition of an introductory level textbook is divided into ten chapters. After the introduction, a brief but adequate treatment of tides, waves and currents in chapter 2 is followed by an examination of “changing levels of land and sea.” The succeeding chapters deal with cliffed coasts, beaches, spits, and barriers, coastal dunes, estuaries and lagoons, deltas, coral reefs and atolls, and the classification of coastal landforms. This last chapter I found reminiscent of the brand of coastal geomorphology purveyed during my schoolboy days (a mere 20 years ago!).

The overall impression is of a somewhat rambling text in which the main objective seems to be the naming of as many as possible examples of the presumably limitless continuum of coastal landforms, although even the experienced reader may find some of these novel. The wide geographical spread of the chosen examples is refreshing and the con-