



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Oceans, Coasts And Islands At The World Summit On Sustainable Development And Beyond—World Summit On Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, August 26–September 4, 2002—Integrated Management From Hilltops To Oceans.** (Revised, Post-Johannesburg Version). 2002. Edited by B. Cicin-Sain, P. Bernal, V. Vandeweerd, S. Belfiore and K. Goldstein. Published by the Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware, Dover, DE. Paperback, ill., tables, vi + 52 pp., 8.5 × 11 inches. 2002.

Though completed in 2002, this “Guide” was placed in circulation well into 2003. One would gather the impression that the Johannesburg meeting generated remarkable positive results. Everyone apparently does not agree with that view if one considers the press reports and the comments and papers presented in October 2003 in Kiev at the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation of *Pacem in Maribus*.

The book, after the Preface which turns out to be a very good Executive Summary, is made up of two parts. There is an Appendix that provides the text of the “civil society declaration on marine and inland fisheries and coasts.” The text itself embodies several *verbatim* passages of the decisions/recommendations of the Conference, specifically excerpts from the Plan of Implementation, also labeled “Type I Outcome” (paragraphs 29–34 and 52–55) [pp. 10–15], and the “Johannesburg Declaration (paragraphs 13 and 24) [pp. 16–18]. The “Declaration” has been signed by 100 countries, an impressive number to be sure, but far from unanimity and with some important political units not joining the fray.

There are, on the other hand, no excerpts related to the Partnership Initiatives, also labeled Type II Outcomes [pp. 19–33].

Part I—Oceans, Coasts and Islands: towards sustainable development—is an extremely short reminder of what led to the conference, the role of oceans, coasts and islands and a reminder of progress made towards and constraints faced by sustainable development. The role of oceans does not contribute much beyond what has not been written in many papers. The eight goals set forth in the 2000 Millennium Declaration (chapter 17 of *Agenda 21*) are recalled, and so are the recommendations of several earlier meetings, e.g. Reykjavik 2001, Montreal 2001, Bonn 2001. The section is useful in focusing upon problems and aims.

Part II—Oceans, Coasts and Islands at the World Summit on Sustainable Development [WSSD]—constitutes the *pièce de résistance* of the volume. Besides the “outcomes” and the “Johannesburg Declaration” the editors provide a report on events and exhibitions at the Water Dome and review discussions and strategies.

Progress and change since the Rio meeting is claimed through the adoption of ocean agreements, initiatives in

ocean and coastal management, government actions and advances in knowledge and technology. The H<sub>2</sub>O Partnership focuses on the need for cooperative efforts to protect coastal and marine environments.

There are references provided but the researcher will not reap a particularly rich harvest. The *Guide to Oceans, Coasts and Islands at the WSSD and Beyond* is a useful tool.

Roger H. Charlier

**Le Zwin—Entre Knokke, Damme Et Sluis.** G. Burggraeve and M. Decler. 2004. Published by Media Club-Roularta; Research Park; Zellik (B-1731, Belgium). Hardbound; 160 pp., illustr. € 160. ISSN not shown. (In French; other language editions to be expected.)

If an area has had a geologically, politically and commercially tumultuous history, the Zwin certainly qualifies for the distinction. This inlet formed as a consequence of a violent storm during medieval times and is at the origin of the wealth that befell Bruges and Damme. Bruges became known as the “Venice of the North”, less because of its bridges and canals then because of its commercial power; the wealth was such that it also became the richest city of Northern Europe and stayed such until silting of the inlet killed off trade, and Antwerp, a deep water port on the Scheldt River, overtook it.

This reviewer has just published a study of the extended Zwin region as a contribution to the “Rhodes Fairbridge Festschrift” (in *Journal of Coastal Research*)<sup>1</sup> and read another one at the 7th International Congress on the History of Oceanography (Kaliningrad, Russia, September 2003)<sup>2</sup> covering pretty well the same domain as the Burggraeve-Decler book. However, this volume far exceeds the papers in specific areas, to wit its exceptional coverage of plants and animals; the training of the first author as a reputed ornithologist becomes quite evident. He furthermore is the conservator of the Zwin natural reserve, and with his photographer co-author, takes one on a vivid tour of the region which will delight naturalists and environmentalists alike. The preserved unusual landscape is one where dikes, ramparts, canals and polders made up and still do to some extent an unusual environment that is also the site of schorres and slikkes, lagoons and water expanses. Coins, fossils and memorabilia have been retrieved and the role of abbeys and of the counts of Flanders have been examined, even if not in such detail as in certain recently defended university theses.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Grandeur, Decadence; Renaissance.

<sup>2</sup> The Zwin. Riches to Rags and back to Riches.

<sup>3</sup> C. Tys, Free University of Brussels/VUB (Belgium) (2003).

The historical facets are not overlooked and the reader is briefed about the region's settlement by early tribes, those of the Menapii, sole successful inhabitants of the Lowlands that held back the Romans who, tired of continuous losses, decided to make them "free allies of Rome". The later settlements of the area by the Romans and Gauls gets good coverage and so do the subsequent transformations of the landscape, the arrival of monks—mostly Cistercians— the birth of villages and even cities, such as Damme and of course Bruges.

The book is superbly illustrated and may be considered reasonably priced in view of the presentation and quality of the art work. Any serious student of the development of coastal Flanders will find the addition of this book to his library a valuable, perhaps necessary, acquisition.

Roger H. Charlier



## BOOKS RECEIVED

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Green, J., 2004. **Maritime Archaeology: A Technical Handbook**. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier Academic Press, 470p. ISBN: 0-12-29863206. Contact: Sheri E. Dean, Publicity Manager, Phone: 919-862-0673; E-mail: s.dean@elsevier.com.

### JOURNALS RECEIVED

**Coastal Engineering: An International Journal for Coastal, Harbour and Offshore Engineers**, March, 2004, 51(2)04, 51(3)04. Elsevier Science, P.O. Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ISSN 0378-3839. Website: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/coastaleng>.