Review
Reviewed Work(s): Dating Mediterranean Shorelines by A. Ozer and C. Vita-Finzi
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ing three detractions.

1. Although the editor has my deepest sympathy in trying to deal with authors from all parts of the world, I feel he should have "reined-in" some of the more wayward contributions; too many tend to dwell on the specific example rather than the general principle.

2. The volume is not a "manual," but more of a "handbook." It tells you "what" you need to do, but not "how." In this sense it is slightly misleading.

3. There are a number of omissions—inevitable perhaps—but those seeking a balance are perhaps going to be disappointed. The biggest minus is the lack of a rigorous discussion of sedimentological indices.

Notwithstanding, *Sea-Level Research* is an impressive accomplishment, certainly one the editor should be proud of. It contains remarkably few errors, and is generally well-illustrated and readable.

Finally, I must comment on the price. I know the editor was aghast at the eventual pricing of the book, almost 100% more than had been expected. This fact alone may put the volume beyond the reach of those to whom it is aimed. I hope recent efforts to obtain a discount for students are successful.

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Dating Mediterranean Shorelines, edited by A. Ozer and C. Vita-Finzi, Berlin: Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie (Borntraeger), Supplementband 62 207p. ISBN 3-443-21062-7X.

A multi-authored volume with 14 papers (12 in English, 2 in French) covers the area fairly comprehensively. The first paper, by Flemming and Webb, analyzes the data for 335 coastal archaeology sites (Holocene), ranging in height from −11 m to 8.5 m above present sea level. From these data they try to derive regional neotectonic trends and an overall eustatic component, but unfortunately no reference is made to the paleoclimatic trends which presumably should be reflected by sea level (steric, eustatic, storminess). Four papers treat with chronometric procedures and results, notably the relatively new isoleucine epimerization and uranium/thorium.

Radke (p 167) discusses values and risks of radiometric dating of shorelines. Specifically, he compares uranium-series methods with ESR — electron-spin resonance. Recognizing that a universally-valid eustatic curve is now an outdated dream and that in many areas the neotectonic factor is overwhelming, a much more vigorous appraoch to chronometry is needed. With aminostratigraphy, an integration of the different methods, can now present fairly consistent ("consensus") datings for the last two interglacials. The consistency can then be checked independently against the deep-sea isotopic curve. In the highly unstable areas of central and southern Italy, these methods (using selected Molluscan shells) have proven very encouraging. Considering the aminostratigraphy in the Tunisian area, where the late Pleistocene sequence is exceptionally well-preserved, Miller, Paskoff and Stearns agree that there has to be an integration of different independent methods. Isolated sampling is not only useless; it can be grossly misleading. The famous *Strombus bubonius* (Tyrrhenian) fauna has now been taxonomically revised as *Strombus latus* according to the paper by Richards, who points out that the majority of Tyrrhenian fossils are still living, and that most stratigraphic associations are facies assemblages and not of significant chronological value. Richards is convinced he has evidence for a 30,000 BP transgression (^{14}C dates), but he does not mention the oceanic isotopic objections, or Mörner's glacial geological arguments.

In short, this is an original and stimulating collection of papers, rather uncoordinated, but nevertheless useful.

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The Great Waves, by Douglas Myles, 1986, London: Robert Hale, 206p. £10.95stg., ISBN 0-7090-2632-3.

Douglas Myles is a freelance writer living in Oregon and has taught history, politics and drama. The dust jacket indicates that he is a student of seismology, vulcanology and oceanography. However, the book itself indicates that he has only the sketchiest knowledge of these areas and his book, which examines *tsunami* as natural hazards, could never be regarded as an authoritative work. The organization of the book follows a meandering path with "Earth Structure" and "The New Global Tectonics" five chapters apart.

In the main, it consists of a series of case studies or regional histories which singly may be of interest, but when put together are repetitive, even to the