

Oceanography

by **R. Gordon Pirie**, published by Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016, ISBN 0-19-508768-2, 425 pages, 1996, \$32.00

Review by **Christopher G. Kendall**

This anthology is packed with really interesting articles, all connected to the marine sciences. The book is divided into five segments: one focuses on exploring the sea; another focuses on currents, chemistry, and climate; the third on the relationship between geology and sea life; the fourth on ocean resources; and the last on ocean pollution. I found the book hard to put down and though it was obviously aimed at the advanced undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in marine science, this book should probably be of interest to anybody who has had anything to do with the sea. Topics covered are eclectic. For instance I found there was a very interesting review of the history of divers and diving. This began with a description of the exploitive relationship between Columbus and the Carrab Indians who could dive. The article goes on to describe the use of diving bells, the development of the first hard hat, and the recent development of scuba.

The book is beautifully illustrated with line drawings and some early photographs. Other articles include a discussion on the ecology of deep sea hydrothermal vent communities; the history of Guyots; the development of deltas in response to the slowing of the most recent sea level rise; ecosystem management and the Antarctic Krill, the predatory behavior of white shark; mermaids-their biology, culture and demise, etc., etc.

This book is a rich tapasstry of interesting information and should be on the shelves of most scientists as required reading, specifically because of our interrelationship with the oceans as an important source of food and mineral resources. The well illustrated articles appear to have been carefully selected by Gordon Pirie, and I was impressed by their quality. I found that there were none that I didn't want to read. In each I found a wealth of information, whether on the Exxon Valdez oil spill or petroleum drilling and production in the Gulf of Mexico, or marine agriculture opportunities. This a great book in a soft color which hopefully will end up on the shelves of many geologists and marine scientists. Have a look at it if you get a chance, and you'll see what I mean.