

# BOOK REVIEWS

Selection of books for review is based on the editors' opinions regarding possible reader interest and on the availability of the book to the editors. Occasional selections may include books on topics somewhat peripheral to the subject matter ordinarily considered acceptable.



**Title** Handbook of Ocean and Underwater Engineering

**Editor** John J. Myers, Editor-in-Chief; Carl H. Holm, Associate Editor; Raymond F. McAllister, Contributing Editor

**Publisher** McGraw - Hill Book Company

**Pages** 1100

**Price** \$32.50

**Reviewer** Donald A. Thomson

The *Handbook of Ocean and Underwater Engineering* is an encyclopedic treatise of basic and applied information that should be very useful to ocean scientists and engineers. Consisting of 12 chapters, each written by one or several specialists, this handbook accomplishes a comprehensive, authoritative coverage of ocean engineering accompanied by concise accounts of the basic principles involved in underwater technology. There are abundant illustrations, graphs, photographs, and tables that lend themselves to quick acquisition of specific information. The 29-page index is adequate for the subtopics in bold print within each chapter, but is insufficient for the more specific terminology within the subsections. Nonspecialist readers may have to shuffle several pages before finding specific information. However, compilation of a more thorough index might not be worth the considerable effort that it would take in a handbook with such voluminous data.

There is unquestionably a great need for a handbook of this sort, and this edition, which is the first of its kind, does an admirable job of reviewing past knowledge and technology as well as presenting modern advances. However, for this handbook to retain its usefulness, it must be repeatedly updated to keep up with technological improvements in the ocean sciences. Under the present multi-author format, this may prove to be an unwieldy task since subsequent editions may have to undergo extensive reorganization to accommodate technological innovations in ocean engineering.

One of the greatest services that this handbook can provide will be to the administrator, teacher, and marine scientist in evaluating types of oceanographic instrumentation and gear to be acquired for research and teaching programs. Scientists and teachers are being inundated with brochures and catalogs advertising marine equipment and it is becoming more difficult for the nonspecialist to decide what instrument will be most appropriate for his specific needs. The authoritative reference material in this handbook will make this task less frustrating.

Overall, the Handbook of Ocean and Underwater Engineering is an exceptional and unique compilation of ocean technology that will benefit a wide variety of scientists, teachers, technicians, and laymen as well as engineers. It is a must on your bookshelf if you are a serious student of the oceans.

*Donald A. Thomson, associate professor of biological sciences at*

*the University of Arizona, is a marine ichthyologist with special interests in thermal pollution and poisonous fishes. Teaching courses in oceanography, marine ecology, and ichthyology at the University of Arizona, he has also served as chief scientist on an oceanographic expedition in the Gulf of California by Stanford University. He has done marine research in Hawaii and has actively participated in establishing a cooperative marine research program between the University of Arizona and Mexican institutions investigating the marine resources of the Gulf of California.*

**Title** The Origin of Cosmic Radiation and the Expansion of the Universe

**Author** Erich Bagge

**Publisher** Richard Abel & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 4245, Portland, Oregon 97208

**Pages** viii + 61

**Price** \$2.50

**Reviewer** Theodore Bowen

An engineer or scientist hoping this small paperback will give him a quick review of current evidence and ideas concerning the origin of cosmic radiation and the expansion of the universe will be disappointed. While