

BOOKS/PERIODICALS REVIEWED

Handbook Quay Walls

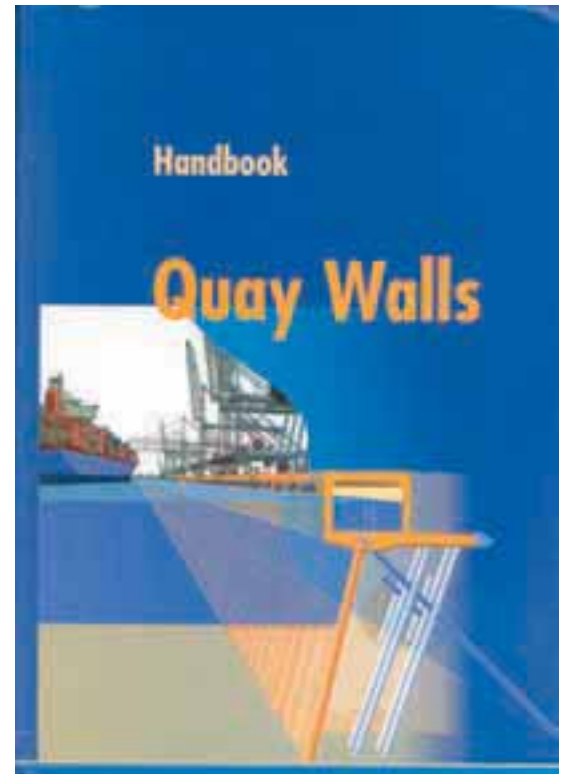
EDITED BY CUR, CENTRE FOR CIVIL
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CUR Publication 211E, in collaboration with the Port of Rotterdam and Public Works Rotterdam. Taylor & Francis, Leiden, London, New York, Philadelphia and Singapore. 717 pages. Hardcover. ISBN 04 1536 4396.

This is a translation of a handbook that was originally published in Dutch in 2003. Produced under the auspices of a Steering Committee from CUR (CUR is a unique network of public and private organisations focusing on civil engineering, infrastructure, building techniques and geotechnics) and peer reviewed by an eminent Scientific Committee, it contains a wealth of information on quay walls past and present. The success of the original version prompted the Steering Committee to publish an English version and we should be grateful to them for taking the trouble to do this in such an accomplished manner. It is often said that the camel is a horse designed by committee, but in this case the committee have designed a thoroughbred. This is an extremely comprehensive treatise on the design, construction and maintenance of quay walls. Whilst acknowledging that the main focus of the book is on the Dutch experience, there is much here of interest and use to maritime, civil and port engineers, wherever they might be practising in the world.

After tracing the history of quay wall construction, the book covers the main types and functions of quay walls. The reader is then taken through the processes of site investigation, defining the functions that the quay wall must satisfy and then looking at how the design is to be accomplished. Separate chapters are devoted to quay elements, materials, construction methods and costs. It is pleasing to see that space has been given to dealing with the management and maintenance of quay walls, a subject so often overlooked in designer's handbooks.

It is also a delight to see a chapter entitled "Lessons from experience", or, as the first section of this chapter is aptly titled, "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs." Engineers are normally somewhat reticent about admitting their mistakes or highlighting those of others, but making mistakes is how we learn and here the authors have brought together a collection of items illustrating just how things can, and do, go wrong.



This excellent publication is intelligently structured, clearly laid out and translated, and illustrated with numerous high quality line drawings and photographs. It is well referenced and contains a bibliography, references to standards and useful websites, together with a number of technical annexes covering design examples, definitions, safety considerations, calculation examples; contract and conveyance; and the like.

This is a publication that should be found in the engineering section of every technical library and should be purchased by anybody who has a serious interest in quay walls.

The book is available as follows:

International orders: Taylor and Francis (£130.00).
Details and advice on ordering can be found on the following websites:

www.balkema.nl; or www.tandf.co.uk; or by email for Europe and the UK: book.orders@tandf.co.uk;
For the United States: www.crcpress.com and by email: orders@taylorandfrancis.com.

Dutch orders: CUR (tel. 0182-540600) (€ 195.00).
For information about ordering the Dutch version, please send an email to Paulien.brandhorst@cur.nl

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