

Charles W. Hummer, Jr.

Books/ Periodicals Reviewed

**Proceedings of “Dredging Today,”
Second International Seminar on Dredging**
Avilés, Spain, June 19 – 20, 2003. Loose-leaf bound,
161 pps, A-4 size.

————— *Autoridad Portuaria de Avilés*
(Port Authority of Avilés)

These proceedings mark the second international seminar on dredging held in Avilés. The seminar was sponsored jointly by three organizations; Asociación Técnica de Puertos y Costas, the Spanish Section of PIANC and the Port Authority of Avilés.

The programme summarised in the proceedings consists of ten lectures and five opening statements for a panel discussion. The lectures embody a diverse set of subjects, ranging from dredging equipment, beneficial use of dredged materials, environmental issues and case studies. The breadth of the programme makes for a very interesting and valuable compilation of technical papers.

Several of the papers bear special mention. The discourse on Public Awareness of Dredging was particularly interesting, as was the update on the London Convention guidelines. The other papers presented some excellent data, concepts and conclusions and constitute a valuable addition to the technical literature on dredging technology, and does so with some emphasis on the Spanish experience and perspective. This is a sector not often represented in the dredging conferences or seminars, and for that reason the proceedings present a fine opportunity to add literature from this region. Moreover, the programme had good international representation with lectures from the UK, USA, Netherlands and Dubai.

The diversity of the programme may best be demonstrated by a listing of the lectures, or papers:

- Lecture 1 Dredging Works at Douros and Leixos Ports, Practical Cases Throughout the last Decade
- Lecture 2 Public Awareness is a Two Way Street —

- Lecture 3 Making Dredgers Aware of the Public and the Public Aware of Dredging
- Lecture 4 Bioassays for Sediments Characterisation — The Spanish Experience
- Lecture 5 Specific Guidelines for Assessment of Dredged Material – London Convention 1972/1976 Protocol
- Lecture 6 Latest Trends on Dredging Equipment
- Lecture 7 The Costs Structure in the Dredging Industry
- Lecture 8 Dredging and Marine Works in Palm Island Project
- Lecture 9 Environmental Beaches Recovery by Using Marine Sand Borrows
- Lecture 10 Deepening of Guadalquivir River Effects: Siltation, River Banks Erosion and Coastal Progress
- Lecture 11 Re-suspension of Sediment by Dredging Processes

The final programme event was termed a Debate Table, and consists of brief summaries of the talks of six panelists. The theme of the panel was, “Dredging Today, Its Social Impact”. The panelists represented dredging contractors, consultancies, academia, and government. Four of these summaries are contained within the proceedings.

The shortcomings of the proceedings are few but bear mention. The absence of what has become the traditional inclusion of key words, which are especially important in the retrieval of information from papers and proceedings as more of them are included in searchable databases, is noted. The lack of a preface or purpose of the seminar at the outset of the proceedings and a table of contents is also noted. The use of the loose-leaf binding has utility in some sense, but on the other, it makes for a less than ideal way to incorporate the proceedings into a technical library.

The papers are readable, in spite of the apparent translation of a few of the papers into English from another

language. The illustrations and tables were generally well presented. The proceedings are well worth the time and cost to incorporate in the technical libraries of consultancies, contractors, academia and governmental agencies.

Information about the Proceedings are available from:
Roberto Vidal Martin
Dravosa Dredging and Marine Contractors
Plaza de Castilla, 3 21.o-A, 28046 Madrid, Spain
Email: contratacion@dravosa.com

Proceedings, Western Dredging Association, Twenty-third Technical Conference and Thirty-fifth Annual Texas A&M Dredging Seminar, June 10-13, 2003, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Center for Dredging Studies, Ocean Engineering Program, Civil Engineering Department, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas (CDS Report No. 376)
Softcover. 363 pp. illustrated.

— Edited by Dr. Robert E. Randall

The Western Dredging Association (WEDA) and Texas A&M University continue their long collaboration in conducting dredging conferences. Texas A&M University, Center for Dredging Studies, is the only university level technical curriculum dedicated exclusively to dredging technology. For many years, the proceedings emanating from their collaborative conferences have been a major source of worthwhile technical papers on dredging related activities. A measure of the international reputation of the annual event is the participation of international experts in both the Texas A&M Dredging Seminar as well as the WEDA Technical Conference.

The papers are edited by Robert E. Randall, Ph.D., P.E., Professor of Ocean and Civil Engineering, Director for Dredging, Center for Dredging Studies, Ocean Engineering Program, Civil Engineering Department, Texas A&M University.

This year's proceedings meet the challenge of the historical value of previous proceedings. They consist of 12 technical papers presented in the Texas A&M Seminar and 17 papers in the WEDA portion of the programme. The customary breadth and scope of the subjects of the papers also is continued. Some subjects are new; others bring contemporary results and relevancy to some subjects on which considerable prior literature exists. Accordingly, they fill a very important role in maintaining the currency of the technology of dredging. The papers presented in each section of the proceedings are listed below.

THIRTY-THIRD TEXAS A&M DREDGING SEMINAR

1. *US – UK Cooperation on Dredging Turbidity*

2. *Modeling* by N. Burt and D. Hayes
3. *Meeting the Competition - Upgrading the Dredge Fleet* by C. Marburg
4. *Tomography as a Measurement Method for Density and Velocity Distributions* by Y. Ma, S. Miedema, V. Matousek, and W. Vlasblom.
5. *Data Logging in Wilmington Harbor Project* by R. Ramsdell
6. *Wetlands Treatment to Address Ammonia Toxicity in the Dredging Process, Bayou Segnette Waterways, Louisiana* by L. Mathies and E. Russo
7. *Dredging Calculators and Screening Tools* by D. Jones and J. Clausner
8. *Flocculation Enhancement Technologies for the Dredging Contractor - Guidelines for the Selection of a Polymer Supplier* by E. Seagren
9. *Dredging Alternatives for Delivering Sand for Beach Nourishment* by R. Randall and B. Koo
10. *Precision Dredging to Avoid the Contaminated Sediments and the Challenges of Retaining All Water* by M. Hermans, W. Haynes, and G. Speyer
11. *Numerical Simulation of a Development of a Density Wave in a Long Slurry Pipeline* by Z. Lu, V. Matousek, and S. Miedema
12. *The Mechanism of Kinematic Wedges at Large Cutting Angles- Velocity and Friction Measurements* by S. Miedema and D. Frijters
13. *Application of a Combined Dredging and Veneer-Capping Remedy to Soft, Unconsolidated Sediments* by T. Thompson, C. Houck, L. Brausch, S. Muttige, R. Paulson, and S. Hint.

WESTERN DREDGING ASSOCIATION TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

1. *Development of Excavating by and Loading of Trailing Suction Hopper Dredges during the Last Decade* by E. Bijvoet, A. de Jager, C. Kramers, S. Ooyens, and R. Ouwerkerk
2. *Demonstration of Transport and Handling of Illinois River Sediment for Beneficial Use* by J. Marlin
3. *Demonstration Project on Dredging and Marsh Development Using a Flexible-Discharge Dustpan Dredge on the Mississippi River at the Head of Passes* by T. Welp, J. Clausner, D. Thompson, J. Mujica, and G. Boddie
4. *Grand Calumet River Sediment Remediation Project: Large Impacted Sediment, Hydraulically Dredging Project in North American* by R. Menozzi, G. Green, T. Binsflier, V. Buhr, S. McGee, C. Moses, S. LaViolette, and T. Blackmar
5. *Remediation of Contaminated Sediment Sites: Engineering for Implementation with Pilot Projects* by G. Hicks and R. Traver
6. *Duluth-Superior Harbor Restoration Project* by R. Desrosiers, D. Gaffney, P. Olk, and D. Smith
7. *Beneficial Reuse of Lower Fox River Contaminated*

- Sediments* by R. Paulson, T. Carroll, and T. Baudhuin
8. *Upper Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Projects* by J. Janvrin, G. Green, V. Buhr, R. Perk, K. Westphall, and M. Pegg
 9. *Geotechnical Investigations for Dredging Projects- A Contractors View* by K. Johnson and G. Sraders
 10. *Corps Evaluation of Fluid Mud Measurement and the Definition of Navigable Depth* by T. Welp, C. McNair, and Larry Buchanan
 11. *Expecting the Best and Preparing for the Worst: Early Neutralization and Claim Avoidance During Dredging and Marine Construction* by J. DeRuggeris and C. Parent
 12. *Dredging and Dam Removal* by K Kabbes
 13. *Evaluation of Naphthalene Emissions During Dredging at the St. Louis River/Interlake/Duluth Tar NPL Site, Duluth, Minnesota* by M. Costello, H. Huls, J. Berdahl, G. Schewe, and M. Zimmer
 14. *Designing Borrow Pit CAD Sites: Remember Newton's 3rd Law!* by J. Germano
 15. *Cap Design of CAD Pits in San Jose Lagoon, San Juan, Puerto Rico* by S. Bailey, P. Schroeder and C. Ruiz
 16. *Deep Water Capping Demonstration Project at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site* by G. French, J. Morris, and T. Fredette
 17. *Equipment Selection Factors for Environmental Dredging* by M. Palermo, N. Francinques, and D. Averett

This publication can be obtained from:
Center for Dredging Studies, Ocean Engineering
Program, Civil Engineering Department, Texas A&M
University, College Station, Texas 77843-3136, USA
email: r-randall@tamu.edu
or

Executive Secretary
Western Dredging Association
P.O. Box 5797, Vancouver, WA 98668, USA
email: weda@juno.com

Parting the Desert: The Creation of the Suez Canal
London, United Kingdom: John Murray Publishers Ltd,
2003. New York, NY, U.S.A.: Alfred A. Knopf Inc.,
2003. Hardcover.

— By Zachary Karabell

In ten years time from 1859 to 1869, a visionary Frenchman named Ferdinand de Lesseps changed the face of the Middle East. He dreamt of, and realised, a canal linking the Mediterranean to the Red Sea which since then, except for an interlude in the middle of the last century, has afforded an efficient connection between East and West. Zachary Karabell's book chronicles the development of the canal, how it

replaced the so-called Overland Route, and what has become of this once magnificent undertaking since 1956. One could call it the rise and fall and rise of the Suez Canal.

Prior to the canal's existence, the primary route from England out to Queen Victoria's India and the East was an 84-mile sand track stretching across the dunes from the Mediterranean town of Alexandria, Egypt to the Red Sea port of El-Suweis. This had been built by a Royal Navy officer Thomas Waghorn in the late 1830s where it happily if dustily, existed for 30 years until the Frenchman De Lesseps arrived on the scene. The canal De Lesseps dug went through to the Gulf of Suez, running parallel to the Overland Route, effectively competing with it and soon putting it out of business. With Disraeli's foresight, the British Government purchased a large portion of the canal company's shares thus winning control of the canal — and some might say of Egypt as well. This era was majestic and imperial while it lasted.

Clearly the author appreciates the monumental engineering achievement of building the Suez, as well as De Lesseps' powers of persuasion to unite diverse potentates to support the project. He also encouraged thousands of workers to literally put their shoulders under it and many to give their lives for it.

Eventually, of course, Britain and France were confronted with an emerging post World War II resentment of "imperialism", and in 1956 the canal was nationalised by Gamal Abdel Nasser. For almost twenty years it lay dormant and its economic importance diminished. In addition, the canal's use has been eclipsed by circumstances; modern ships are often too large to pass through it and often now go around the Cape of Good Hope as they did before. For all this De Lesseps' dream is still functioning and through the appearance of this book and other events such as the excellent exhibition on the Suez at the National Dredging Museum in The Netherlands (see page 24), we are forced to remember this incredible project and re-evaluate its international significance. If you are interested in what it takes to realise a project so vast, Karabell's book should not be missed.

Available from the publishers or in bookstores.