

INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF OCEANOGRAPHY

OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA AND PROVISIONS FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

by

THOMAS WAYLAND VAUGHAN AND OTHERS.

1 Vol. 22 × 31 cm. - 225 pages - 36 plates and 10 figures.

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As early as April 1927 the United States National Academy of Sciences had recommended the appointment of a Special Committee on Oceanography "...to consider the share of the U.S.A. in a world program of oceanographic research and report to the Academy". The following were accordingly appointed :- Messrs W^m BOWIE, E.G. CONKIN, B.M. DUGGAR, John C. MERRIMAN, T. Wayland VAUGHAN, Frank R. LILLIE (Chairman), Henry B. BIGELOW and Arthur L. DAY. When Dr. LILLIE subsequently became President of the Academy Dr. BIGELOW succeeded him as chairman.

It became obvious that any comprehensive systematic investigation of the Oceans must be, in large measure, an International enterprise, and recognising these facts the Committee decided to attempt the preparation of a digest of the oceanographic data available for the different ocean basins, and to compile a catalogue of the various Institutions in the world engaged in any kind of oceanographic work.

The Committee commissioned Dr. Wayland VAUGHAN to prepare a report, and in September 1932 he started on a trip round the world to visit various oceanographic Institutions and to consult with the oceanographers in as many different countries as possible.

Although in 1934 the major part of the report had been completed it was only after Dr. Wayland VAUGHAN had retired from the Directorship of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography that he was able to give his uninterrupted attention to its conclusion. This is embodied in the publication under review.

The first 30 pages deal with serial sections of Temperature and Salinity in the different ocean basins, and contains synoptic charts showing the progress of studies accomplished. General charts showing sounded and unsounded areas in the oceans follow, also references to literature regarding Marine Bottom Deposits. Articles, accompanied by chartlets, on submarine earthquake epicentres, magnetic observations at sea, Tides, and Maritime Gravity research are also included.

The second part of the book gives not only a very complete catalogue of the various Oceanographic Institutions of each country, but also includes for each Institution a short historical account of its organisation, the purposes of its studies and scope of its activities, also the publications issued by them. A very useful analysis of the activities of the Institutions according to subject is also included.

There are 36 Plates of illustrations and 10 Text-figures.

The publication of this work is obviously of the greatest value to Oceanographic and Hydrographic institutions, showing as it does for each country the provision made for oceanographic research and the scope of their activities, also in stressing those areas in the different oceans for which there is little or no information at present available and in encouraging international co-operation in future work.

The book is exceptionally well arranged and printed and the Publishers are to be congratulated on the completion of a work of such great value to oceanographers.

J.D.N.

