



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Water in Australia** (revised and enlarged edition), W. P. Dunk, M. D. Gauge and S. J. Hutchinson. Melbourne: F. W. Cheshire, 1967. Pp. 88. \$1.95.

This volume attempts to fulfil a dual purpose. The authors firstly propose to explain the hackneyed phrase "Australia is the driest of all continents". They then attempt an explanation of "why it is so very important that steps be taken to conserve as much water as possible, and to use it in the best possible way".

The first section contains a brief discussion of the main factors that influence Australia's water supplies, and also a summary of the major water storages. The authors then move on to consider the water resources and uses in all States and the Northern Territory. The main interstate agreements pertaining to water resource development are also noted. The role of water in Australia's future development is the concern in the final section. Estimates of potential water storage capacity and of Australia's future water requirements lead the authors to the popular conclusion that "water, not land or minerals, will determine our ultimate population" and development. Six measures "to improve the effectiveness of our water resources" are outlined.

*Water in Australia* provides a useful, concise introduction to the position with respect to our water supplies. However, the implication that Australia faces a serious curtailment in her future development because of a physical shortage of water is surely misleading. The real problem is not one of water *per se* but is rather a problem of utilizing our aggregate resource base in a manner which ensures a maximum contribution to development. With respect to water, an institutional structure is required to secure effective project evaluations and "soundly based" investment decisions "if the nation is to get the best value from its capital expenditure"<sup>1</sup>, and also to secure an effective water allocation policy "if the pattern of future development is to be properly adjusted to available supplies."<sup>2</sup>

D. R. GALLAGHER

*Department of Agriculture, Sydney.*

---

<sup>1</sup> J. Vernon et al, *Report of the Committee of Economic Enquiry*, (Canberra: Government Printer, 1965), vol. I, para. 3.25.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, para. 3.28.

**Contemporary Agricultural Marketing**, edited by Irving Dubov. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1968. Pp. x, 263. \$U.S. 5.95.

This volume is a collection of articles derived from the marketing section of a convention of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers (U.S.A.). It is divided into three sections—background issues, emerging problem areas and methodological developments. The articles cover a wide range of topics—policy, co-operatives, econometrics, extension, market structure and methodology.

The collection is somewhat uneven in quality. This, of course, is to be expected in material of this kind. It begins with a refreshingly honest assessment of the value of applied as opposed to more basic research, in relation to the author's own work. It then presents a rather superficial discussion of freedom. Next there is an interesting treatment of the much neglected relation between institutional factors and economic development. The section on emerging problem areas which follows fails, in general, to inspire. An exception is the article on market structure research which becomes involved with the whole question of the unsatisfactory state of marketing research. The problem is well stated but unfortunately no satisfactory solution is offered. The last section dealing with methodological developments is more rewarding but covers only a limited range of techniques.

JOHN PHILLIPS

*Department of Agriculture, Sydney.*

**Spectral Analysis of Time Series**, edited by Bernard Harris. New York: John Wiley, 1967. Pp. x, 319. Price not given.

This book reports the proceedings of an Advanced Seminar conducted by the Mathematics Research Center of the United States Army and the Statistics Department at the University of Wisconsin in October, 1966. Although the editor provides an introductory essay, this volume is not recommended for the tyro, who will gain a better initial insight from other expositions (e.g., in Granger and Hatanaka, *Spectral Analysis of Economic Time Series*).

The contributors, mainly academics, include some of the most notable names in this field. They cover most of the basic theory of spectral analysis and discuss some recent (i.e., pre-1967) developments. The argument in some places is extended by means of empirical illustrations. The level of mathematical knowledge pre-supposed is high. This, combined with the assumption that the reader is already familiar with the quaint jargon of spectral analysis, lends to the book something of an "in-group" feeling which will both comfort the cognoscenti and scare off the neophytes.

There is an index which appears to have been compiled (as often happens in such published collections) by someone unfamiliar with the needs of index-users.

C. D. THROSBY

*Department of Agriculture, Sydney.*