

Atlas of Mesozoic and Cenozoic Coastlines

edited by **Alan G. Smith, David G. Smith and Brian M. Funnell**, published in 1994 by Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0-521-45155-8, 99 pages.

Review by **Christopher G. Kendall**

This slim atlas is compiled from a huge data source by British Petroleum and a group of scientists working at the Universities of Cambridge and East Anglia. Probably recognizing how contentious stratigraphics are, and trying to avoid future conflicts, the bibliography has come to encompass nearly half the text. So the book is well documented and the sources of the data are clearly given. The objectives of the study were to produce an up-to-date set of computer generated maps on which were plotted global Paleogeographic data at the stratigraphic resolution of 1 map per each stage for most of Mesozoic and Cenozoic. The maps are clear and useful. They show the globe and the distribution of land and sea with the present outline of the continents ghosted beneath a distribution of the continents and sea. This excellent atlas should be acquired by most stratigraphers. The maps are so interesting and well documented that I would encourage Cambridge University Press to consider providing a compact disc of the original data. Such a disc would give users of the atlas access to materials they could use to produce and illustrate other scientific documents needing paleogeographic relationships to make a geological point. In themselves, however, the paper copies of the maps are extremely useful and I am sure that they will be used for many years to come. BP and their co-workers should be congratulated on this elegant volume.