



ARMCHAIR DIVER

Diving All Over The World

DIVE DESTINATIONS 2002

(Editor Mark Evans) £5.95
Market Link Publishing, The Mill,
Bearwalden Business Park,
Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11
4GB. Tel: 01799 544200

The ultimate guide to diving around the World is the ambitious claim made for this book. Does it live up to this claim? In many ways, the answer is yes. Mark Evans has certainly improved this second version of Dive Destinations. To produce a book that covered every dive centre in every resort in every country is impossible and the author does not attempt to do this. What he has produced is a very good guide to where to go, how to get there and what you can expect when you arrive. He gives essential information about each country mentioned - currency, temperatures, inoculations required, language, entry requirements, and lots more. Each section ends with a lengthy description of some of the most popular dive sites of the country with the details of the most reliable dive operators.

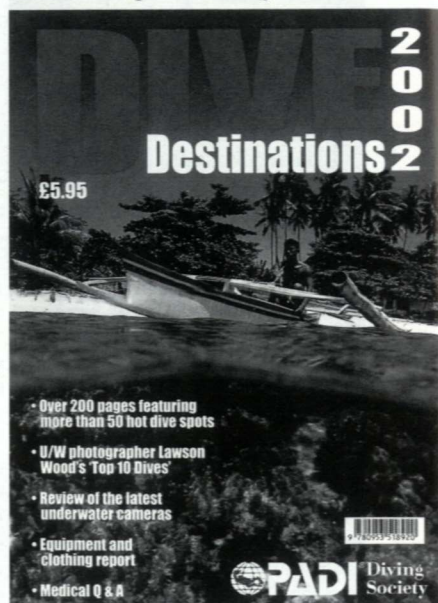
The photographs used throughout the book are excel-

lent, a good mix of wide angle and close-ups with sumptuous surface shots making the locations look welcoming and warm. What is new for this edition are sections on equipment, clothes, cameras and photography, an excellent article on insurance and some FAQ on medical matters, (however nothing on poisonous fish Adam).

If your not sure where you want to go then Lawson Wood has chosen his top ten dive sites, including two in Scotland, to help you select a destination. This is an excellent little guide packed full of useful information and at £5.95 not expensive. If you are getting fed up with the Med and the Red Sea then this book will open up new horizons for you.

Rather than criticise any omissions let me make a few suggestions for the next edition, a bigger section on the Canary Islands, Ireland and perhaps Scapa Flow. Possibly some of the dive operators in these areas should invite Mark for a few days diving then he'll have the knowledge to include them in the next edition.

The ultimate guide to diving around the world



Safer Diving'

SPORT DIVING SEA SAFETY GUIDELINES

(published by the RNLI as part of their Safety At Sea series of booklets available free from RNLI)

With the annual increase of incidents at sea involving divers this booklet is a most welcome addition to the cause of safety. Written by the people who actually have to deal with these incidents it carries the added weight of the RNLI's practical experience dealing with emergencies both minor and major. Most of the accidents they are called out to could be prevented with better preparation and planning and reading this simple booklet will go a long way to achieving that.

After an introduction by Martin Woodward coxswain of the Bembridge lifeboat and a commercial diver for thirty years, there are sections on choosing the right dive boat including what

to wear, radios, flares etc. Engines are next for scrutiny for they are the source of many incidents. Organising the crew and the boat with useful tips on the rules of the road at sea. The section covering man overboard is especially worthwhile and should be practised regularly by dive clubs. How to summon help and evacuate to a helicopter, what to do if your boat capsizes plus advice on drift dives use of marker buoys etc.

What makes this booklet so necessary is the breadth of subject matter and the fact that it has been written by experts in the field of sea safety. ScotSAC should arrange for every branch diving officer to receive a copy of this booklet along with the video 'Deep Trouble'. Placing the emphasis on prevention is a strategy that works and it is encouraging to see the RNLI produce so many practical aids to help divers enjoy their diving in safety.