The whole subject of investigation is well dealt with throughout the book, and Chapter VI, *Surveying for timber decay*, provides a particularly good simple guide to anyone who wishes to start taking practical steps in this field. Similarly good practical guidance is provided in Chapter VII, *Basic methods of timber treatment* and Chapter VIII, *Timber preservatives and treatment specialists*. Additional useful material is included on the identification and treatment of other insect pests such as larder beetles, clothes moths, carpet bettles, house ants and cockroaches.

With suitable support from additional texts dealing with local insect and fungal pests, and locally available pesticides and relevant control legislation, this book may be regarded as a good basic start for the preservation technologist's library in this specific area.

Martin Weaver
Heritage Canada
Ottawa

Phillips, Morgan W. and Selwyn, Dr. Judith E. *Epoxies for Wood Repairs in Historic Buildings*. Published by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. 1978. 67 pages. 8 in x 10 1/2 in $2.75 Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Stock No. 024-016-00095-1

Patching compounds and impregnants were used by architects and craftsmen for the preservation of deteriorated wood for centuries. Most of such repairs were temporary because of the deleterious effects of the environment or the inherent weakness of the ingredients. The introduction of durable and high tensile epoxies finally provided a material which eminently suited the requirements. Unfortunately epoxy was not used to the full extent of its potential; partly because few craftsmen knew how to handle it and partly because of most people's reluctance to try new methods.

This long awaited and much needed publication will hopefully change the situation for the better. Mr Phillips and Dr. Selwyn have produced a booklet which provides a remarkably large volume of useful information in a surprisingly few pages.

Firstly, in this booklet we can find a simplified course on polymer chemistry, as it is related to epoxies. Then, the authors proceed with detailed description of their formulation, including a listing of their properties and an account of the tests conducted by the authors. This section is especially useful for professionals who are in charge of major restoration projects or who wish to develop other formulations for their particular needs.

Several excellent recipes are given for patching compounds and wood stabilizing impregnants. Not only the formulations but also the sources of the ingredients are provided. An important feature is the detailed description of the handling, mixing and applying of the formulations. The last section of the booklet offers a case study with further practical information, advice and many good examples of real life situations.

This booklet is a must for the library of every preservationist. I hope, however, that it will be followed by an edition which will scale down the theoretical discussion. The complexity of that may scare away some of the craftsmen and artisans who could benefit so much from this excellent publication.

Paul Stumes
Ottawa

Wooden Shipbuilding and Small Craft Preservation. The Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., 1976. 100 pp., 7 1/2 in x 10 5/8 in., illustrated, $5.50 (U.S.) ISBN: 0-89133-045-1

This volume is a collection of 12 papers from the Symposium on the American Wooden Shipbuilding Industry, sponsored by the Bath Marine Museum, and the Second Annual Museum Conference on Small Craft, sponsored by the Mariners Museum, Newport News, Va. Both conferences were held in 1976, and the papers were printed the same year.

Although a series of conference papers cannot reasonably be expected to constitute a definitive work, the title may mislead some, including this reviewer, into expectations of a thoroughly technical work. In fact, three of the papers are devoted to aspects of the case for funding small craft preservation. A fourth, a delightful photographic essay, offers historic marine photographs depicting American maritime traditions.

The remaining two-thirds of the book affords a variety of technical papers. Basil Greenhill's "The Archaeology of the Boat" reflects his well-known expertise; his insights into the benefits derived from archaeology and comparative study serve as a useful reminder to those involved in individual specific vessel studies. John Gardner's "New England Boat Building in the 18th and 19th Centuries" is both enlightening and entertaining. "Nineteenth Century Coastal Lifeboats" by William D. Wilkinson and "Research behind the Restoration" by Keith MacAunthier both stimulate the desire to see these authors expand their examinations in greater depth.

"Kayaks: Their Design and Use" by David W. Zimmerly examines both geographical distribution and various types of this distinctive vessel. Of future interest is Zimmerly's continuing research involving mathematical