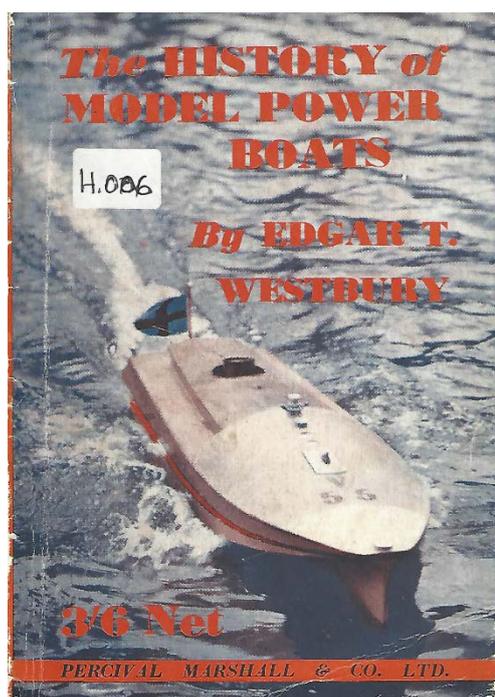


## Book Review Nr 12

The two books this month are again boating related. The second book has limited scope and I suspect will not be in demand, but it is in the library so should not be left unopened.



The first book **The History of Model Power Boats** is in A5 format. Our copy appears to be signed by the author Edgar T Westbury and was published in 1950. The book runs to just under 100 pages. This is a history book and acknowledges that the technical aspects of model boat design and construction are referred to only briefly. It implies that the power boat discipline was some 50 years old when this book was published. Of the ten chapters, four relate to the development of the plants and hulls. These are Power Plant Development, Hydroplanes and Flash Steam, Popularity and Progress and Modern Tendencies; the other six are more related to the development of the sport. I refer to it as a sport as boats were built for competition rather than a precise scaled down full size craft. The book identifies British Model Speed Boat Records to date; a 5lb craft travelling at 70.1 mph over a 500 yard course must have been exciting to see.

The Popularity and Progress and Modern Tendencies chapters describe the development of IC engines and hulls by reference to constructor by name, the size of the engine and rudimentary reference to the hull construction rather than in depth details of the components.

The book is more a relaxing read than a reference book for techniques for modern power boat building.

The second book is **Flags for Ship Modellers and Marine Artists** by Alec A Purves dated 1983.

This is also in A5 format and runs to 84 pages. The author's preface recognises that space restrictions have required much of interest to be excluded. There are close to 300 flags detailed. However, although the cover is in colour, the book is printed in black and white. The book relies on a colour key of 8 colours, 7 basic plus cerulean blue.

Five Chapters (half the book) are dedicated to English flags and pendants of command from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Following these chapters is a chapter setting out a chronological list summarising the changes and developments. One chapter is dedicated flags of the principal maritime countries. Only the USA is a non-European country and those Europeans are those whose coast is washed by the Atlantic and the North Sea; nothing further east.

**These two books will be available to peruse at the next club night.**

**If you want to borrow this, or any book in the library, please contact me.**

[clive.reynolds@stalbansmes.com](mailto:clive.reynolds@stalbansmes.com)

Remember we would welcome members' views on any books they borrow.

Clive Reynolds. March 2022

