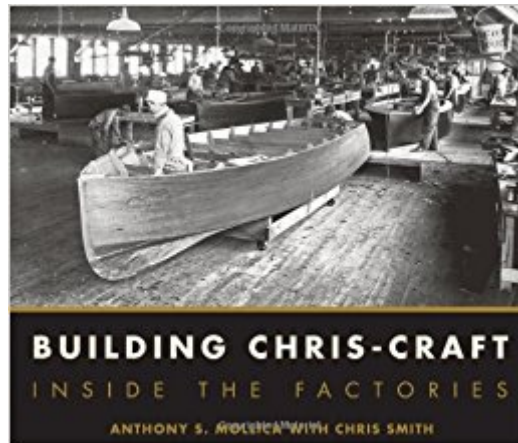




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Building Chris-Craft: Inside The Factories



Synopsis

For more than half a century, Chris-Craft reigned supreme in the world of motorboating. This market dominance was due in no small part to the design and construction techniques employed in the company's studios and on its factory floors. Building Chris-Craft examines the company's design and production heritage, looking at Chris-Craft's considerable accomplishments in the context of key competitors and industrial trends in general. High-quality archival images take readers inside the factories, design studios, and lofts of Chris-Craft factories in Algonac, Holland; Cadillac, Michigan; Salisbury, Maryland; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Caruthersville, Missouri.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every Chris-Craft owner will want to own this detailed history of Chris-Craft. -- Wooden Boat, Sept/Oct. 2010 Wow, what a book! Details on Gar Wood and Chris Smith as racers, competitors, partners, boat builders are all covered with fresh insight and facts. Races and the balance of profit and fun in the boating industry is well woven into the context of the time frames discussed. It all seems as if you are there and with Tony Mollica (a first class historian and researcher on boats) and Chris Smith, you are (Chris worked in the family business). The title is a little misleading as "inside the factories" suggests to me some dry reading, and this lavish book is not dry. It's full of stories and interesting facts. Do not read it before bed time, you can not put it down! - <http://www.seabuddyonboats.com>, August 25, 2010 Great book, great previously unpublished photographs, and it is full of new insight. I highly recommend it!-Brian Robinson -

Director, the Chris-Craft Antique Boat Club, Inc. <http://www.chris-craft.org/discussion>, August 7, 2010

Anthony Mollica is a noted wooden boat expert and writer, as well as a trustee of the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, New York. The author of *Gar Wood Boats: Classics of a Golden Era*, *Chris-Craft 1922--1972*, *The American Wooden Runabout*, and *Dodge Boats* lives in Dewitt, New York. Chris Smith is the grandson of Chris-Craft founder Christopher Columbus Smith. He resides in Holland, Michigan. Chris Smith is the grandson of Chris-Craft founder Christopher Columbus Smith. He resides in Holland, Michigan.

A must for anyone who appreciates classic wood boats and the legendary Chris-Craft name. Packed with photos, both color and black and white, the book offers an experience that is the next best thing to skimming over the waves in a real mahogany boat. In addition to a myriad of photos depicting construction of Chris-Craft boats and completed boats, including conceptual ones, the book contains color and black and white art of Chris-Craft advertising illustrations. Text gives a complete picture of Chris-Craft as told by a family member and a wood boat historian. Jump in, put on your lifejacket and enjoy the imaginary boat ride.

"Building Chris Craft: Inside The Factories" is a pictorial history photographed as if were there in Algonac Michigan building these magnificent woodies. The images were probably photographed as a work in progress or for promotion. But, like all great images shot at the time when this was common place work in progress, they capture a time when custom hand made was not something special, but the norm. These images show the pride and craftsmanship needed to produce the great wooden boats. In a world where fiberglass is considered the norm and is modeled and formed into sweeping semi graceful lines, this book harkens back to a time when a pair of rough and callused skilled hands steamed, shaped and sanded the real sweeping lines on great wooden classics.

A lovely walk back into a simpler time, with the story of the way all of those magnificent Chris-Craft boats were built. There is plenty of detail on the history of the company, as well as detail on actual construction methods, and the way day-to-day operations were handled.

This book is so great! I bought it as a gift for my dad this past christmas, and he really enjoyed looking through it. It was perfect for him because he rebuilds Chris-Crafts and it provided him with

ideas and insight for his next boat. I would recommend this to anyone who already knows about Chris-Crafts or any classic boat enthusiast!

Being from the auto industry from 1964 to 1999 it took us until the mid 80's to grasp the Toyota Production System which is exactly what the Smith's used/invented in the early 1920's. The solutions to the auto industries quality and production processes was right in our own backyard! Very interesting reading if you are an auto industry person and a Chris Craft boat lover! Well done!

Great book on the history of Chris Craft and wooden boats from that era. Well written, great pictures.

For those of you who love this old style boat this book is for you. The large pictures and detailed historical information are wonderful.

I have not had time to read the entire book but it has some new and different info compared to the other books out there. I bought the book as a present to one of the great grandchildren of Chris Smith(Chris Craft) and he was impressed by it as well. One of the more interesting chapters is Ch5, it talks about the inner workings of manufacturing at Chris Craft. If you are in manufacturing you will really appreciate what they did, so many years ago. I recommend this book to any wood Chris Craft boat enthusiast.

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