completely covers the various special cases, it gradually became clear that it gives for many important questions either no answers at all or very inadequate answers. For example, this is the case concerning the asymptotic behavior of eigenvalues and eigenfunctions. Moreover, one of the basic theorems of the entire abstract theory is the spectral decomposition of an operator in terms of a so-called resolution of the identity. For differential operators this spectral decomposition can usually be described by means of the solution of an appropriate equation. Thus in questions regarding the specific description of the resolution of identity, the general spectral theory is of very little help. This perhaps explains the paradoxical fact that a few years after the actual completion of the abstract spectral theory of selfadjoint operators, intensive work on the spectral theory of selfadjoint differential operators began.

For the convenience of the reader who is not familiar with abstract spectral theory, Chapter 13 discusses concisely this theory without proofs and indicates various connections with the spectral theory of differential operators. Also necessary results from analysis that are used in this book are given in Chapter 14 as a ready reference.

The material of the book is very well organized and the proofs are clear. It is an excellent source for anyone who wants to learn or review the essentials of the subject. It is a valuable and welcome addition to the literature.

V. LAKSHMIKANTHAM

BULLETIN OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 83, Number 2, March 1977

*Logic in algebraic form*, by William Craig, Studies in Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics, vol. 72, North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam and London, 1974, 204 + viii pp., \$18.50.

*An algebraic approach to non-classical logics*, by Helena Rasiowa, Studies in Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics, vol. 78, North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam (also, PWN-Polish Scientific Publishers, Warszawa) 403 + xv pp., 1974.

The two volumes under review belong in spirit to the classical period of algebraic logic which is the study of logical problems by algebraic means and of algebraic structures arising in mathematical logic. They do not use the tools of categorical logic which is the modern inheritor of the subject. They are concerned with propositional and first order languages, theories expressed in them and algebraic structures derived from them.

Craig's approach to algebraic logic is highly personal and, although it links up with the theory of polyadic and cylindric algebras, it has its own orientation and very distinctive flavour. *Logic in algebraic form* is thought provoking and worth studying from the philosophical, proof-theoretic and algebraic viewpoints. Should such formulas as $P(v_0)$ and $(v_1 = v_1) \wedge P(v_0)$ be identified in an algebraic formulation of first order logic? They are, of course, provably equivalent and so would be identified in the cylindric or polyadic algebra setting. They are not identified, say, in Lawvere's categorical logic approach to elementary theories. Craig argues that they should not because they do not determine the same operation, that of the first formula depending