

READING MATTER

Paul Skilleter Books distribute an important new XK140 book –
Unfortunately, it has been printed upside-down...

THE JAGUAR XK140 IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE JOHN ELMGREEN & TERRY McGRATH

You could say that the genesis of this impressive 528-page, 3.4kg book goes right back to early 1976 – the UK's previous hottest year on record! That's when, as a young man, author John Elmgreen visited Jaguar's Browns Lane site in Coventry for the first of what were to be multiple visits to research XK material in the company archives.

Today, a housing estate has replaced the old Browns Lane factory where the XK was built, and all 'classic XK' and a huge quantity of other Swallow, SS and Jaguar historic material has long been held by the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust Archives based at Gaydon, Warwickshire. Over the years John has been able to accumulate a vast amount of data from these remarkable archives, and from multiple sources worldwide – not least owners and former owners of the XK 140 in a variety of different countries. Just as importantly, he also acquired the knowledge to assess the significance of the material and then present it in a highly readable book form.

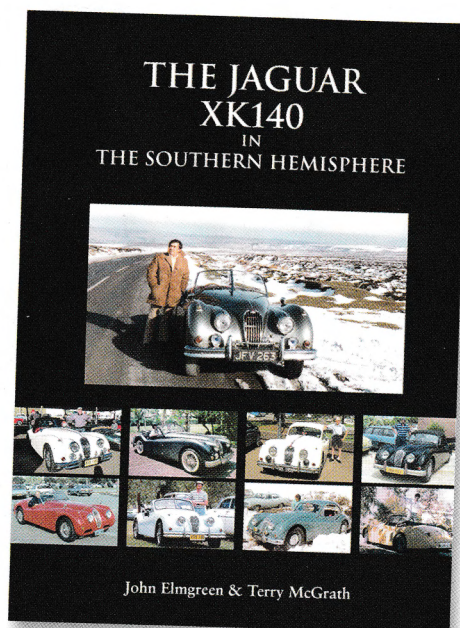
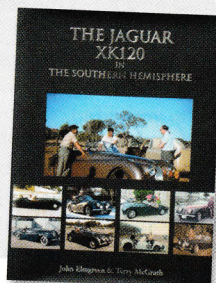
In this work his collaborator is Terry McGrath, also from Australia and who has possibly the world's most

comprehensive and varied collection of Jaguar material and photographs outside the official archives. The first fruit of their researches was *Jaguar XK in Australia*, published to great acclaim in 1985 (and now a highly sought-after collectors' item). It was followed after thousands more hours of research by a more detailed and far-reaching volume entitled *The Jaguar XK 120 in the Southern Hemisphere*, published in 2010.

Their latest book is a companion volume and has just been published (July 2022). As its title indicates, the authors have applied their knowledge and resources to record this time the history of the XK 140, not only in Australia and New Zealand but in over 45 different countries situated in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and even South America. The result is a delightful compendium of facts, figures and personal stories which makes for absorbing reading or browsing, besides being an extremely important historical record of how Jaguar sold and marketed a key model in variety of overseas markets.

The Jaguar XK 140 in the Southern Hemisphere is printed in England and is distributed in the UK, Europe and some other countries by Paul Skilleter Books (www.paulskilleterbooks.co.uk). Just 500 copies have been printed and the price is A\$375 (approx. £210) including shipping. Wherever you live, to purchase visit www.jtpublications.com.au where you will find a detailed description of the book and the (simple) ordering procedure. Each book is individually numbered, by the way.

An option is a special leather-look slip cased edition with a reproduction XK 140-style bonnet badge in chrome and enamel. This costs A\$550 (approx. £320, give or take a little due to currency fluctuations). The publishers tell us that they are currently running a special offer whereby you can purchase both the XK 120 and XK 140 Southern Hemisphere books together and benefit from a 25% reduction on the price (also £210) of the XK 120 title.



Specific topics include explanations on how vital exports were to Jaguar and the UK after WW2, the logistics of exporting, Jaguar's overseas representatives, the freight and trading companies employed, how Jaguar supported its overseas distributors and sold cars to US forces abroad, the purchase tax situation, and the CKD (Completely Knocked Down) export system.

The book then moves on to cover Jaguar dealers in each country, then the stories of individual cars, concluding with extensive lists of XK 140s by chassis number and registration number.

Finally, a major strength of this book (and indeed XK 120 in the Southern Hemisphere) is the illustrations. Most come from pictures and snapshots taken by individuals or owners when the cars were new or in every-day use. In many cases these pictures record the history of individual cars, from when they were new through to being (in some instances) crashed or becoming near-derelicts, then finally restored. ■