

5.2

Including Sections 2.2.8 & 5.3

**BIOGRAPHIES OF PHILATELISTS
AND DEALERS**

by

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE BOUND VOLUMES

Although this document is only intended to exist in electronic form, I find it very convenient to have a hard copy to hand. It is easier to refer to a book than wait the five or ten minutes it takes to start up and close down a computer, just to obtain a single reference or check a fact. Books also give you the big picture of the document as a whole, rather than the small-screen glimpses we have all got used to. Accordingly, I printed and had bound a copy of this document in January 2002, which I have called the *First edition*, for convenience. Henceforth, I will have a copy bound each January, or thereabouts, provided the document has increased in size by at least ten percent since the previous printing. (From the fifth to the ninth editions, I only required an increase of at least a hundred pages before replacing the volume in my library. However, by the 10th edition, I was running out of major libraries to which I could donate obsolete volumes, so I reverted to requiring a ten percent increase in pages prior to binding.) At the same time I will send an update to the web files on www.fipliterature.org, where the electronic version of this document is hosted. Since printing and binding is quite an expensive undertaking, I donate the obsolete bound volumes to important philatelic libraries round the world.

In 2010, I incorporated Section 2.2.8: *Personal Bibliographies of an individual's Writings* in this volume. As the on-line document was accessed, I began to receive requests for the information in the **Negus** bibliographies which I had designated **Negus (1)**, **Negus (2)** and **Negus (3)**. Since these were made available by **Jim** and **Ron** for the benefit of the philatelic community, I have added them to this document as Appendices 2, 3 and 4 respectively, increasing the size of the document by just over 200 pages. By the middle of 2012, this document was moving towards the 3,000 page mark and so, in line with my other documents, I simplified the set-up and turned off the *remove widows and orphans* feature. This resulted in a reduction in size of 110 pages. Reducing the amount of white space is an ongoing process in an effort to minimise the page count whilst not compromising usability.

Following the end of **Tony Virvilis'** tenure as President of the FIP Literature Commission, I lost touch with the organisation, which appeared to me to have become moribund. Following a repeated request by **Frank Walton**, the Past President of the Royal Philatelic Society London for my works to be hosted on the Royal's web site, I agreed in January 2018.

This edition was last printed on the first day of January 2014

1st edition, January 2002 A single bound copy of 300 pages. It was donated to the **Western Philatelic Library** of Sunnyvale, California, when it was replaced in my library by the 2nd edition.

2nd edition, November 2002 A single bound copy of 500 pages. It was donated to the **Collectors Club** of New York, when it was replaced in my library by the 3rd edition.

3rd edition, May 2003 A single bound copy of 750 pages. It was donated to the **Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library** of Denver, Colorado, when it was replaced in my library by the 4th edition.

4th edition, January 2004 A single copy of 1,003 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-H*, comprising pages 1 to 518 and *I-Z*, comprising pages 519 to 1,003. It was donated to the **American Philatelic Research Library** of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, when it was replaced in my library by the 5th edition.

5th edition, January 2005 A single copy of 1,107 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-H*, comprising pages 1 to 564 and *I-Z*, comprising pages 565 to 1,107. It was donated to the **National Philatelic Society** of London, UK, when it was replaced in my library by the 6th edition.

6th edition, January 2006 A single copy of 1,213 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-H*, comprising pages 1 to 614 and *I-Z*, comprising pages 615 to 1,213. It was donated to the **Royal Philatelic Society London**, UK, when it was replaced in my library by the 7th edition.

7th edition, January 2007 A single copy of 1,319 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-H*, comprising pages 1 to 663 and *I-Z*, comprising pages 664 to 1,319. It was donated to the **British Library** of London, UK, when it was replaced in my library by the 8th edition.

8th edition, January 2008 A single copy of 1,420 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-H*, comprising pages 1 to 708 and *I-Z*, comprising pages 709 to 1,420. It was donated to **The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club** of Sydney, Australia, when it was replaced in my library by the 9th edition.

9th edition, December 2008 A single copy of 1,566 pages, bound in three volumes:- *Introduction & A-E*, comprising pages 1 to 506; *F-M*, comprising pages 507 to 1,090 and *N-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 1,091 to 1,566. This edition was bound in three volumes in error. It was donated to **The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand** of Wellington, New Zealand, when it was replaced in my library by the 10th edition. This edition was requested earlier than usual by **Anthony Virvilis**, the incoming President of the FIP Literature Commission.

10th edition, January 2010 A single copy of 1,780 pages, bound in two volumes:- *Introduction & A-I*, comprising pages 1 to 866 and *I-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 867 to 1,780. It was donated to the **PHILAS Library** of Sydney, Australia, when it was replaced in my library by the 11th edition.

11th edition, December 2010 A single copy of 2,104 pages, bound in three volumes:- *Introduction & A-E*, comprising pages 1 to 692; *F-M*, comprising pages 693 to 1,444 and *N-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 1,445 to 2,104. It was donated to the **Northwest Philatelic Library** of Portland, Oregon, USA, when it was replaced in my library by the 12th edition.

➤ These volumes were incorrectly bound by the binders in Royal Blue rather than the usual Navy Blue.

12th edition, January 2012 A single copy of 2,491 pages, bound in three volumes:- *Introduction & A-F*, comprising pages 1 to 828; *G-O*, comprising pages 829 to 1,632 and *P-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 1,633 to 2,491. It was donated to the **Postal History Foundation** of Tucson, Arizona, USA, when it was replaced in my library by the 13th edition.

13th edition, January 2013 A single copy of 2,799 pages, bound in three volumes:- *Introduction & A-F*, comprising pages 1 to 926; *G-O*, comprising pages 927 to 1,824 and *P-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 1,825 to 2,799. It was donated to the **Philatelistische Bibliothek** of Hamburg, Germany, when it was replaced in my library by the 14th edition.

14th edition, January 2014 A single copy of 3,027 pages, bound in three volumes:- *Introduction & A-F*, comprising pages 1 to 1,002; *G-O*, comprising pages 1,003 to 1,972 and *P-Z & Appendices*, comprising pages 1,973 to 3,027. It was donated to the **Münchner Stadtbibliothek, Philatelistische Bibliothek** of Munich, Germany, when it was replaced in my library by the 15th edition.



The Author
January 2013

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FOREWORD

This document comprises **Sections 5.2 & 5.3** of my masterwork, to which **Section 2.2.8** was subsequently added:–

THE PHILATELIC BIBLIOPHILES COMPANION

Section 5.2 Biographies of Philatelists and Dealers

Section 5.3 Biographies of Bibliophiles and Literature Dealers

Section 2.2.8 Personal Bibliographies of an Individual's Writings

This document began its life as a simple listing of my ad hoc collection of copies of published biographies of philatelists and dealers. Apart from the books and pamphlets on individual philatelists which I purchased specifically, I came across the majority of these items whilst perusing philatelic handbooks and periodicals as I was carrying out research for my other interests. It is by no means a systematic listing or true bibliography. The entries were originally linked only in that virtually every one included a portrait of the subject in question. Even there, my treatment was uneven in that persons of interest to my own bibliographic researches were included without there necessarily being a portrait in attendance. Conversely, some portraits of philatelists, important to my researches, were included with virtually no accompanying biographical details.

Late in 1999, I purchased the biographical files of the noted American bibliophile **William Hagan**, which were particularly strong in references to bibliophiles. The following year, **Jim Negus** retired from philatelic life after over fifty years as a philatelist and writer, which included editing the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue from 1977-81. Subsequent to his retirement in 2000, I was the grateful recipient of two large parcels of philatelic literature ephemera, which he came across as he sorted his library for sale, and a third parcel in 2003, once he had compiled all of his unpublished works onto a CD which he then distributed to certain individuals and libraries. During the sale of his library by **Cavendish Philatelic Auctions** in April 2001, I purchased all of his bibliographic material including his extensive files of cuttings and ephemera. That same year, **Harry Hayes** both donated and sold to me many items relating to philatelic literature which included much of a biographical nature. The death of **Ron Negus** in 2009, led to my receiving, under his instructions to his wife, several boxes and files of material, some of which had been compiled by this brother **Jim**. All of the biographies found in the above material were incorporated into this Bibliography irrespective of whether or not they included a portrait. Where I found a series of biographies published together, I have included them all irrespective of whether they included a portrait or not.

Inevitably, news of my compilation spread and some people were kind enough to donate material to me. Even if it did not meet my then current criteria for inclusion, this material has invariably been incorporated in my work, in gratitude for, and recognition of their kindness.

As the biographical work grew, I found increasingly that it was helpful to include "biographies" of philatelic companies, in many cases virtually inseparable from a single philatelist e.g. **Stanley Gibbons Limited** or **C. H. Mekeel & Company**, although almost always accompanied by a portrait of the premises or founder. In 2002, I began to incorporate my small collection of company brochures into this Bibliography in order to enhance the corporate sector of this resource. Sometimes snippets of personal information caught my fancy and I have occasionally included these under the appropriate person, in order to pique the interest of browsers. For those intrigued already, a typical and fascinating example can be found under **John Reginald Hooper**.

In the middle of 2003, I succumbed to the inevitable and began to collect and therefore list all significant biographies and obituaries I came across and quietly dropped the requirement for an accompanying portrait. In this respect, it is important to remember that many of the minor references included in this bibliography, which seem only to swell its bulk and make its use more-difficult rather than improve its quality, were included before a significant biography was to hand. When I use the biographical data on a subject for another project, I will purge the listings of minor material, the content of which is included elsewhere. (Whilst this was an excellent philosophy, my lack of time lead me not to bother deleting anything.)

It had always been my intention that **Section 5.3 Biographies of Bibliophiles and Literature Dealers** would build up into individual biographies of all of the bibliophiles and literature dealers I came across. By 2007, I had become frustrated with the extent of the duplication between this document and **Section 5.3**, which meant that I had to look in two of my own documents to retrieve the required information. Accordingly, I incorporated the biographical data from **Section 5.3** into this document under the relevant entries. The inclusion of short biographical notes into a hitherto pure bibliography was so successful in breaking up the monotony of the entries that, at the same time, I began to add short biographical notes to some of the other entries to make the work a little more interesting both to myself and those who make use of it.

I can only trust that users get as much enjoyment from using this Bibliography as I have had reading the many biographies it includes.

Finally, I must thank the late **Francis Kiddle** (1942-2015) who offered to host this and other unpublished documents relating to my long-term projects, on the FIP Literature Commission web site at <http://hps.gr/fipliterature>.

In 2013, a number of biographies from this work were abstracted for inclusion in the exhibition catalogue of MonacoPhil 2013: *Annexe 1 = Appendix 1: Biographie succincte de quelques personnalités importantes de l'édition philatélique = A short biography of a few major figures in philatelic publishing.*, in: **Wolfgang Maassen & Vincent Schouberechts: Les Jalons de la Littérature Philatélique au XIX^e Siècle = Milestones of the Philatelic Literature of the 19th Century.**, Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies de Monaco, 2013, pp.479-504.

Brian John Birch

Standish, UK
30th December 2013

THE AUTHOR

BRIAN JOHN BIRCH

Born in Mill Road Hospital, Liverpool, UK on the eighteenth of January 1949, the second son of **Frederick Birch** (1921-2007), a policeman and **Edna May Birch** (1923-2002), a hairdresser and subsequently, a shopkeeper. He has an older brother, **David Frederick Birch** (1946-), who followed in their father's footsteps and became a policeman.

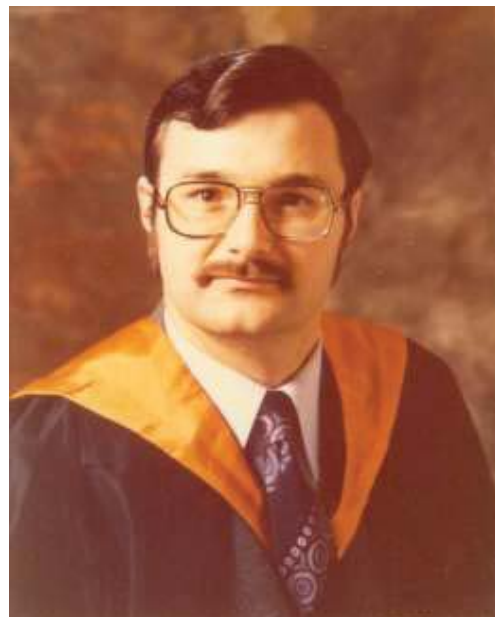


The author on the left with his brother, David. This photograph was taken in 1953, to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

Following his schooling, he attended the Department of Metallurgy at the University of Liverpool in 1967, graduating three years later with a B.Eng. Following two years research, he received his Masters degree (M.Eng.) The next seven years were spent in the same Department carrying out industrial research into the heat treatment of metals. He eventually left to join a small private company, Nemo Heat Treatments Ltd.



The author, upon receiving his Bachelor of



Engineering Degree from the University of

Engineering Degree from the University of Liverpool in 1970

Liverpool in 1973

It was during his stay at the University that he met and married **Marion Eslick**, with whom he had two children, **Sally** and **Geoffrey**.

In 1983, Nemo Heat Treatments was taken over by the industry leader, Blandburgh, part of Bodycote International plc. **Brian** spent the remainder of his career with Bodycote, managing various plants and ending his time there as Director of Health, Safety and Environmental Compliance for this large multi-national conglomerate. He retired in 2009 after 31 years service.



**The Author with his wife, Marion and his
daughter, Sally in 1985.**

His interest in stamps was sparked at the age of 9 when their father gave his two sons stamp albums and a small packet of stamps. With two worldwide collectors in the same household, change was inevitable in order to avoid conflict. It was agreed that **Brian** should collect Commonwealth and His brother, **David**, European stamps and that they would collaborate on the rest of the world.

Eventually, family life and increased commitments at work lead to the stamps being laid aside for extended periods of time. Inevitably, during these low periods even new issues were neglected and this lead to a loss of interest in a collection getting ever further from completion. Following some training in information science at the British Library, **Brian** transferred his interest to the literature of philately and the stamp collection was abandoned. With no collection to support, the standard monographs and handbooks held little interest for him and he chose to specialise in philatelic bibliography and the history of philately, its literature and its adherents.

This change in direction lead him to begin a number of bibliographies which expanded to a greater extent than expected and became substantial books. Although he spent a great deal of time in compiling some of these over the past 30 or so years, it was evident that their scope was such that they would never be finished and so could never be conventionally published. Accordingly, they have all been placed on the FIP literature Commission web site and are updated each year. The site: <http://fipliterature.org> currently holds over 6,500 pages of **Brian's** freely available bibliographic and biographical research.

The limited time available, given his domestic and employment responsibilities had made his involvement in organised philately somewhat problematic. Nevertheless, his earliest continuous membership is that of the Perfin Society, dating from 1972. **Brian** joined the American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library in 1976, subsequently

becoming a Patron and Life Member of the latter. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London (1981) and a member of the Collectors Club of New York (1983).

Although he had always published the occasional article, retirement gave him the time to at least begin to catch up on all of the projects that had been started and then laid aside for lack of time.

INTRODUCTION

This work has grown on an ad hoc basis, as and when I had material to be entered into it. In the same way, the introductory text has been added to and revised continually as I came across material that did not fit the existing pattern or when I, not infrequently, changed the rules. I have tried to use simple rules that are instinctive and do not require me to look them up constantly. For the same reason, I have not abbreviated the titles of periodicals, reasoning that computers are big enough and fast enough to deal with very large files quite easily.

This is the simplest possible bibliography. Each entry contains only sufficient information to allow users to locate the item. I decided not to try and categorise the entries into biographies, obituaries, notes, etc., a task better left to those producing proper bibliographies or indexes. At least the entries under each person are in date order. Family members are added under each name only where they are also known within the philatelic community. Such relatives are given their own cross-referenced entries.

In theory, one only needs to look up the surname of the philatelist in question, check the forenames (and initials, just in case I have made duplicate entries for the same person) and the job is done. The following notes have been added for the small minority of cases where this simple approach is not adequate.

I have made no effort to note where material listed in separate entries is identical, for example, being derived from a single press-release or reprinted one from the other. My inclination to add such notes was foiled by the fact that I have compiled the entries found under an individual's name over a period of several years and any attempt at annotation would simply overwhelm me. Nor have I noted the relative importance of the various entries, except for those with a portion of the reference printed in red which are mentioned in the Section covering *Miscellaneous Publications Containing Biographical Data*. Having said all that, in 2004 I made some tentative trials (see the entry for **Derek Nathan**) to determine how such a system could work in practice, since it seemed to me that I might choose to annotate the entries for persons of interest to my researches. In the event, I took this possibility no further owing to the time constraints I was under.