

## THE JAGUAR XK120 in the Southern Hemisphere by John Elmgreen & Terry McGrath

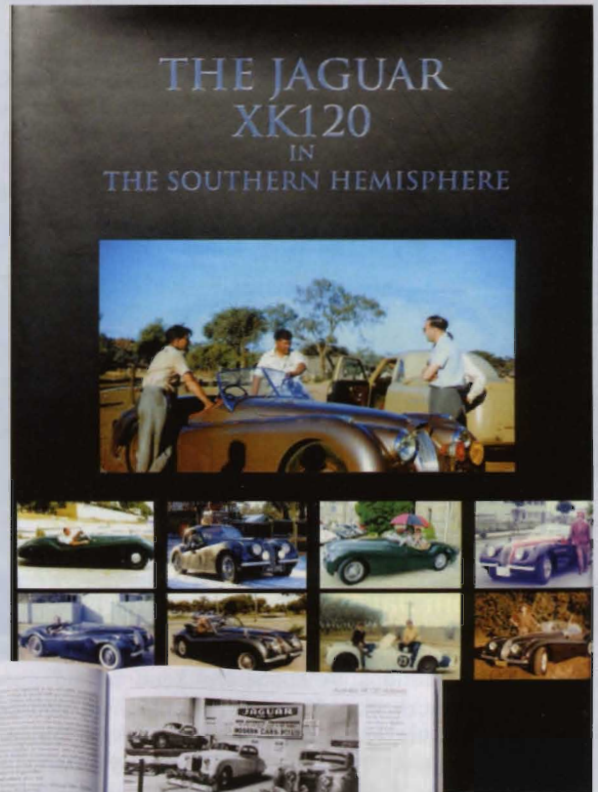
By any standards this is an amazing book. It is an incredible feat of research by long-term, arch Australian enthusiasts Terry McGrath and John Elmgreen. In a sense, this is a second edition of their original book, *The Jaguar XK in Australia* published 25 years ago, but in fact it is considerably updated and massively expanded.

Massive it certainly is. This is a very large portrait-format book of nearly 500 pages. Running to some 280,000 words, it is liberally illustrated with over 1000 photographs. Most importantly, it details the history of 925 individual 120s now living in Australia, New Zealand, Southern and Northern Africa, South America, the Middle East and Asia. Many of these cars have spent part of their lives in the UK, Europe and North America.

I know John and Terry very well indeed and there is a wonderful spirit of mutual assistance between us and David Bentley, Guy Broad and Peter Ingram. I have the most enormous respect for what they have achieved with this book. It is the product of something like 15 years' work on this book alone (to say nothing of the foundations created by the first book which must also have taken many years) by two very dedicated guys. With such a wealth of material, they have decided to publish separate books on the 140s and 150s in the future. The detail is just amazing and there are so many fabulous illustrations that exude period atmosphere. It is brilliant.

Not surprisingly the book is not cheap, but then it cannot be and should not be. Just 1000 have been printed and they are individually numbered. The production and quality is first class. For this absolutely enormous book, the publishers quote a price of A\$375 including carriage to anywhere in the world ([www.jtpublications.com.au](http://www.jtpublications.com.au)). Amazon list three suppliers ranging in price from £395 to £265. Terry told me at Silverstone that both Chaters and Hortons have a handful in stock in the UK at, from memory, about £265. If you want one of these tomes, you will need to hurry as I am certain they will sell out very quickly and, like the original book, rapidly become collectors' items.

I cannot praise this book highly enough. I congratulate John and Terry on producing a masterpiece. **PP**



**Terry McGrath adds,** *The foreword for our new book was written by Spike Michelides, the original owner of RHD Alloy XK 120, 660004, the first private owner of a RHD 120 having taken delivery of his car on December 16, 1949 in Perth, Western Australia.*

*Spike also became one of the first owners to enter an XK 120 in a competitive event when he ran the car at the Mundaring Weir Hill Climb on the February 25, 1950; he went on to break the State speed record at 117.65mph.*

*Spike, who sadly passed away on May 21 this year, is seen here with book number 4 of the old "The Jaguar XK in Australia" and book number 6 of the new publication. Number 4 is the chassis number and number 6 the WA registration of his XK 120. Most people will remember the car from XK60 as being the polished XK 120, voted "most outrageous XK".*

*With the passing of Spike you must ask the question, are any other original Alloy XK 120 owners still with us? One that springs to mind is "Mister Indy 500" Andy Granatelli, there are a couple of others that I can think of but they are few and far between. Can anyone think of any others?*

