



### Title 39

**Michael Michaelis** is a Member of the ISR Editorial Board, as his wide managerial and industrial experience, based originally on electrical engineering research and later as Washington Manager of Arthur D. Little, gave him great interdisciplinary knowledge. Although not directly related to the Author, close friendship of over 50 years, has led us to call each other “brother”. Michael was President of the Cosmos Club in 1996. *Courtesy M. M.*

## The Founder Members of the S F A

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SIR ARTHUR ELTON Baronet was by the time I got to know him in the middle 1940s at the height of his professional reputation as the Director of the Shell Film Unit. He was the 10th Baronet, an inherited title, and had a lovely large home, Cliveden Court in Somerset. Arthur was also a great collector, and owned a large number of books and pictures dealing with the early period of the British Industrial Revolution from 1770 on. As a maker of scientific films and later, as supervisor of others, he was superb, with the right amount of basic knowledge and artistic conception. He died in 1973.

GEOFFREY BELL was also a distinguished scientific and documentary film maker, who had studied science at Cambridge. His greatest film was *Transfer of Power* for Shell. Later he worked for the United Nations and when subsequently his thoughts turned to Buddhism he left England and settled in Bangkok. His ideas were often very unconventional, and he was a very stimulating and good friend to me. He died in Ireland in 1999.

MICHAEL MICHAELIS became my 'brother' when during my frequent visits to Mike's home in Washington DC in the early 1960s, we both were tired of explaining at many cocktail parties, that, YES, we were both scientists, YES we were both born in Berlin, YES we spelt our name the same way, NO our parents were no longer alive, YES we had lived in London and both had helped to start a Scientific Film Association there. So much easier, simply to pretend we were brothers, nobody ever exposed our adopted family ties. He is, after 50 years, still one of my closest friends and our relationship has become that of true brothers.

Michael had a distinguished career in early electronics and radar research during World War II. When later he went to the USA, he became the Manager of the Arthur D. Little office in Washington and Senior Advisor on atomic energy to President Kennedy's Special Assistant for Science and Technology. In 1998 he was elected President of the famous Cosmos Club, a very great honour for him. [See Title 306] Michael's first wife, Diana Tead from Boston, was a brilliant media communicator and was as much interested in Documentary Films as Michael was in Scientific ones. Their marriage was very happy, until it ended through her tragic death from cancer.

JACK CHAMBERS came from more humble origins than Arthur Elton, and Jack remained faithful to his communist convictions. His scientific films were of great social concern and much admired.

COLIN RONAN (1920-1994) was an astronomer, a science writer, lay preacher and lecturer, musicologist and conjurer. Jack, Colin and I joined the Founders later.

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