

## References for the Ferranti Poseidon, Hermes, Apollo and Argus computers.

Note that the background to all the early British stored-program projects from 1945 – 1951 is summarised in: ***Alan Turing and his Contemporaries: building the world's first computers***. Simon Lavington [ed]. Published by BCS in 2012. 111 pages; many illustrations. ISBN: 978-1-90612-490-8.

Another general account, spanning the period from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s, is: ***Early British Computers*** (Simon Lavington). Published by Manchester University Press (in the UK) and Digital Press (in the USA) in 1980. 139 pages, many illustrations. ISBN: 0-7190-0803-4. Available online at: <http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/EarlyBritish.html>

Much of the information for the Ferranti Poseidon, Hermes, Apollo and Argus computers came from the initial (2003) version of section F6 of the *Our Computer Heritage* project, compiled by Peter Niblett, an ex-Ferranti employee who worked on these computer systems. Unfortunately, Peter did not list his references. The following sources have been examined during a 2011 update of the OCH website.

1. For an overview of the technical and business history of the Ferranti company from its foundation, see:

J F Wilson, *Ferranti: a history. Building a family business, 1882 – 1975*. Carnegie Publishing Ltd., Lancaster, 2001. ISBN: 1-85936-080-7.

Volume 2: *from family firm to multinational company, 1975 - 1987*, published in 2007 by Crucible Books, Lancaster. ISBN: 978-1-905472-01-7.

2. *Ferranti Hermes computer*. 8-page brochure DSD/63/3 published by Ferranti Ltd., Digital Systems Division, Bracknell, October 1963.

3. *Hermes, a new on-line computing system*. B F M Adamczewski, Data Processing magazine, May/June issue 1964, pages 3 – 14.

4. *Argus Computer Installations*, 19-page typed document produced by Ferranti Ltd., Automation Systems Division, Wythenshawe and dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 1972. The document is catalogued as A1996.10/6/3/15 at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), located in Manchester.

5. *Poseidon - INNER Order Details*. Document catalogued as A2001.286/1/1 in the Ferranti Archive held at the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) at Manchester.

6. *The Argus computer and process control*, by Maurice Gribble. Resurrection, the Bulletin of the Computer Conservation Society, number 20, summer 1998. See:

<http://www.cs.man.ac.uk/CCS/res/res20.htm#g>