Chris Ravilious 1938 - 2016

Chris Ravilious was one of the chess world’s scholars. He is perhaps best known as the joint author, with Ken Whyld, of a valuable bibliography of English-language chess texts published before 1850 (complementing the bibliographies of Betts, covering 1850-1968, and Lusis, covering 1969-1988), and he appears to have taken a particular interest in problems. I am not aware of any problem composed by him, but he wrote a book on the child prodigy Lilian Baird, he produced indexes covering sixty years of problems and endgame studies in the BCM, and he supplied the British Chess Problem Society with several archival items relating to the society’s foundation and early years. He also wrote a paper “The Aesthetics of Chess and the Chess Problem” which appeared in The British Journal of Aesthetics in July 1994.

Chris visited the BCPS Library in search of material at least once during my custodianship, and he leaves a very pleasant memory.