

The historian and film



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Contents

	Preface vii	
	The contributors viii	
	Introduction 1	
	Paul Smith	
I	The raw material	
	1 Film resources 15	
	Lisa Pontecorvo	
	2 Film preservation: the archives 32 Clive Coultass	
II	Film as historical evidence	
	3 The evaluation of film as evidence 49	
	William Hughes	
	4 The fiction film and historical analysis 80	
	Marc Ferro	
III	Film as historical factor	
	5 The newsreels: the illusion of actuality 95	
	Nicholas Pronay	
IV	Film in the interpretation and teaching of history	
	6 The historian as film-maker I 121	
	Rolf Schuursma	
	7 The historian as film-maker II 132	
	John Grenville	
	8 Film in university teaching 142 Arthur Marwick	
	9 Film in the classroom 157	
	Bryan Haworth	
	10 History on the public screen I 169	
	Donald Watt	
	History on the public screen II 177	
	Jerry Kuehl	
	Calcat hiblicaramby 196	
	Select bibliography 186	. 201
	Appendix: addresses of organisations involved with film and his Index 203	tory 201
	Ilidex 203	
		v



Preface

The amount of work now being done by historians on and with film and the absence of a substantial survey of the field in English have together made the moment ripe for the production of this book. It aims to say something about almost all the major aspects of historians' interest in film: considerations of size and in one or two cases the absence of a suitably qualified contributor have prevented its coverage from being quite complete.

I have to thank the contributors for giving me a much less harassing passage than falls to the lot of many editors, the staff of the Cambridge University Press for their invaluable encouragement and aid in the project, and my wife, who knows more about all this than I do.

The book has no dedication, but if it did it should perhaps be to the growing band of historians, archivists and others from several countries who, in 'film and history' meetings over the last few years, have enlarged not merely their understanding but also their circle of friends.

Paul Smith

King's College, London August 1975



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