



A Paul Rotha Reader (Exeter Studies in Film History)

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Paul Rotha was one of the major figures of the British Documentary Movement, second only to John Grierson. He was also a prolific writer, beginning with his celebrated book *The Film Till Now*, published in 1930. This volume brings together an edited collection of some of his most important writings and addresses a variety of topics including the theoretical basis of cinema, the emergence of an intellectual film culture in Britain, the state of the British film industry and his own experience of directing and producing films.

A Paul Rotha Reader marks a major reappraisal of Rotha's significance as a theorist, critic and advocate for cinema as the most important form of mass communication in the modern world. It will be essential reading for anyone seriously interested in British cinema history

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Editorial Review

Review

“Rotha’s writing itself seems incredibly fresh and vibrant. A no-nonsense, clearly written personal view of filmmaking, the book is a pleasure to read and triggers off many a train of thought about the nature of documentary filmmaking . . . As a starting-point for discussion about the thinking behind documentary and the effect it can have on the viewer, it is a highly stimulating collection . . . The introductory chapters pull into focus Rotha’s aims and intentions which remind the reader what documentary has the potential to do. To make us think.” –*Journal of Popular British Cinema*, Vol. 4, 2001

(Journal of Popular British Cinema)

About the Author

Duncan Petrie is Senior Lecturer in Film in the University of Exeter and Director of the Bill Douglas Centre for the History of Cinema and Popular Culture. His books include *Creativity and Constraint in the British Film Industry* (Macmillan, 1991), *New Questions of British Cinema* (BFI, 1992), *The British Cinematographer* (BFI, 1996). **Robert Kruger** has worked as an editor, director and producer, mainly within the British documentary movement, and set up the TSW Film and Video Archive, now largest regional archive in the country. He started his working life with Paul Rotha's 'Films of Fact' company and edited Rotha's final two films.

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