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Feature Films As History

Editor: KRM Short
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Film presents enormous possibilities to historians both as a source of historical evidence and as a focus for study in its own right.

Bringing together the work of 7 leading film historians, this book illustrates the breadth of methodological approaches adopted by the field and the variety of its interests. It considers feature films in particular, showing their potential as historical source material, and discussing how they provide a clearer understanding of the societies and intellectual trends they both reflected and affected. By using films as historical documents, the articles demonstrate how important new insights may be gained into the history of the Soviet Union, France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States.

Dealing with a period from about 1924-1945, the book provides both detailed in-depth studies and a general introduction on the variety and problems of the type of documentation appropriate to the study of film history. As such, the book will be welcomed by social and cultural historians, as well as by students of film and film historians.

K.R.M. Short is senior lecturer in History at Westminster College, Oxford. His contributors are drawn mainly from film studies.