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- * Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including some spelling and grammatical errors. In response to letter from project concerning CCINTB's outputs. Part of continued contact with Denis Houlston, who also took part in two interviews.

MR A. D. HOULSTON
 [redacted]
 LEVENSHULME
 MANCHESTER
 M19 [redacted]

6th August 98

Lancaster University
 Institute for Cultural Research
 Bowland Tower East
 Lancaster 4YT

Dear Dr. Kuhn,

I was delighted to receive your letter of 28th July which brought back happy memories of interviews with Valentina Bond, a very friendly interviewer.

I recall my initial trepidation of how my schoolboy and, later, youthful reminiscences could be of any significance. This soon evaporated in her company and I found myself enjoying the occasions and warming to my cinematic memories. It made me realise how what I'd taken for granted could become such a big influence in the social fibre of the thirties.

Marriages arose in one's 20's, - 24/25 so the war took a large slice out of my life; I was 22 when called up in 1939. Until then my life was following the normal pattern of playing football and courting in the warm, conducive cosiness of our many local cinemas. We did not constitute a market force in

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those days hence we didn't own cars, - even adults didn't have cars, streets in our suburb were empty. We played football in the streets free from risk. We never even dreamed of having one's own flat, so our courting landscape was limited. A common riposte today is "were you never young

once?" implying identical circumstances but there is no comparison. YOUTH pre-war and post-war are chalks and cheese.

So, romance in the cinema but also education via newsreels and travelogues. Cup finals and coronations would be shown on special editions "next Thursday" – no TV and instant action from all parts of the world.

You can see the experience of Valentina's interviews revived feelings I'd buried subconsciously for so long. Loved it without realising at the time how significant it was.

Naturally I've wondered with a normal curiosity how your project finally developed and what conclusions you have drawn. This is why I'm thrilled that you have asked the publisher to send me a copy of the Journal of Popular British Cinema when it is published next year. I would

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also be doubly grateful to see a typescript version of the article in the meantime. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. It should help me to realise that, albeit in a small way, I've been able to pass on my enthusiasm for a vanished era so that the aura of cinema in the thirties is not a dusty memory gathering cobwebs.

Thank you for keeping in touch and for your kind offers. I wish you every success in whatever projects you undertake.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Houlston