

MR A. D. HOULSTON
LEVENSHULME
MANCHESTER

Leicester University
Institute for Cultural Research
Bowland Tower East
Leicester
LA1 4YT

6th August 98

Dear D. Kuhn.

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

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 sociable fibre of the Thirties

Marriages arose in one's 20's, - 24/25 so she was 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 walm, conducting cosiness of our many local cinemas. We did not constitute a market force in

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 refrain today is "were you never young once?" implying identical circumstances but there is no comparison. YOUTH pre-war and post-war are chalk and cheese.

So, romance in the cinema but also education via newsreels and travelogues. Top 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. I 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

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Houlden
