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The Elision of Women's Labour in Ciné Clubs: Crystal Productions

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The Elision of Women's Labour in Ciné Clubs: Crystal Productions

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University of West London



The Birth of the Ciné Club

- Cine clubs first appeared in the mid to late 1920s
- Boom period for amateur filmmaking really took hold during the early 1930s
- Cine marketing targeted women
- Perceived gender imbalance in cine clubs
- Women are less evident in archival records of cine clubs than their male counterparts.
- Gaines's (2018) idiom that women 'had the rug pulled from under them'.



Who were Crystal Productions?

BOURNEMOUTH FILM CLUB



Collection Level Entry



Alt Ref No	
AV14	
Title	
Torrens films	
Date	
1923-1966	
Description	
Cinefilm (16mm & 9.5mm): amateu	r films of Bournemouth area and family taken by R G Torrens, a member of Crystal
Productions (Bournemouth Film Cl	ub)
Cinefilm (35mm; nitrate): Corpus C	Christi procession, Youghal, Eire, 1926; Pathe Gazette newsreel about wedding of Duke
& Duchess of York, 1923.	
Cinefilm (8mm): 'Perry on Front' (1	936)

Scrapbook of press cuttings, programmes, etc. regarding Crystal Productions, 1930s-1960s.

AdminHistory

Mr Torrens lived at Forest Hill House, Rushall Lane, Corfe Mullan, Dorset.

Robert George Torrens (1903-1981) Torrens was a key member of the Bournemouth Amateur Film Society, which started in around January 1930.

Manage cookies rt George Torrens BA, BDentSc. In the British Dental Journal, 7 July 1981 informs that: Torrens was tup in Eire, he qualified [as a dentist] at Trinity College, Dublin in 1924. Not long after qualifying he and bis family moved to Bournemouth and be practised in that town for the rest of his life.

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Grew



On Thursday last the Technical Com-mittee held their first club meeting which raise was well attended by members. The even-ing was devoted to tuition in film to th troph technique and acting tests, under the direction of Mr. E. A. Guidotti, ably were Vicar assisted by Mr. R. G. Torrens, who acted he the the WAG Hill well. the v

Hodd gentl

assisted by Mr. R. G. Torrens, who acted as cameraman and also arranged the lighting. Members will have an oppor-tunity of seeing themselves on the screen at the next meeting of the series on Thursday, July 24th. On Sunday afternoon a party of acting members spent an enjoyable time at Sand-banks, when a short comedy was "shot." A tennis club is being formed by the social committee, and members and friends are invited to get in touch with the hon. secretary, Miss G. De Coninck, Flandris, Uplands-road, Bournemouth who will for-ward particulars to all interested. A court at Dean Park is being reserved for the use of members. CA ford the use of members.

Mr. J. Grime, the hon. secretary, being musi unable to give the necessary time to the work, Mr. G. F. Mapp, 44, Portchester-road, Bournemouth, has consented to take had over his duties.

Swanage Times & Directory - Friday 18 July 1930 p.2)

Bournemouth Amateur Film Society 1930 – Tests, 1930 (AV14/9)

BAFS Screen Tests and Dramas, 1930 (AV14/12)









Screen stills from AV14/12

Excerpts from the constitution: (a) To produce films, plays and other material for the screen and stage (b) To arrange meetings for the private of public entertainment in accordance with the wishes of its members.'

'Any group members may form themselves into a unit for the production of material in accordance with the objects of the Club.;[...]

CRYSTAL PRODUCTIONS.

(The Bournemouth Film Club).

Hon. Treas.---VERA MASKEY, 77. Richmond Wood Road.

Hon. Sec.— ROBERT G. TORRENS, B.A., B.D.Sc., 85, Wimborne Road. 'Phone 4486 B'mth.

28th March, 1931.

Dear Sir or Madam,

This is to notify you that a new Film Society has been constituted as above.

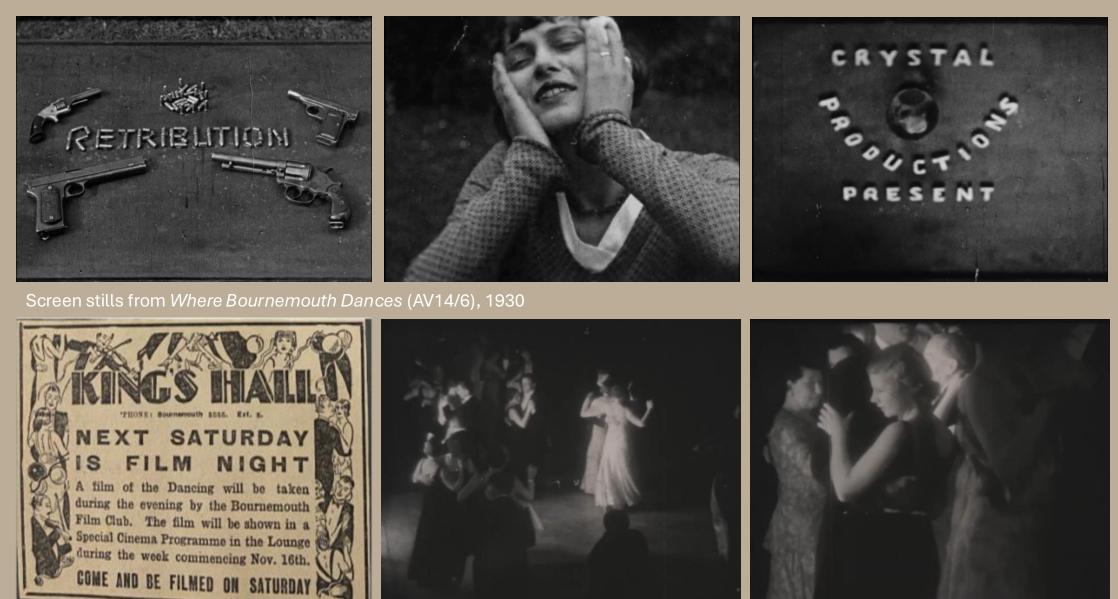
My Executive Committee are prepared to consider a certain number of applications for membership from members of the late Bournemouth Amateur Film Society. Further particulars will be forwarded on receipt. of an immediate written application for same. Yours faithfully,

R. G. TORRENS,

Hon. Secretary.

Constitution as contained in scrapbook AV14/D1

Screen stills from Retribution (AV14/10), 1930



JANU





Screen stills from *The Broken Swastika* (AV14/4), 1932

- Words (1933) (AV14/1) (top right)
- Through the Guidebook (1933) (AV14/1) (below)
- The Hand of Fate, 1933 (AV14/2) (bottom right)

'That we, as members of this Club repudiate the vile and slanderous rumours at present being circulated by malicious persons, which are absolutely unfounded, and that an open invitation be given through the Press to any interested members of the public to attend any of our meetings, which have been open at all times.' particulars of meetings of the club may be attained from RG Torrens'

<image>



(Bournemouth Daily Echo, Saturday 13 May 1933)

Why and how have women's contribution to cine clubs been hidden?

- How they are catalogued levels of record and cataloguing standards
- Reliance on depositor oral histories –where male club members have been custodians of a collection
- Patriarchal governance structures automatically putting women in subsistence and below the line roles
- Reliance on documentary sources which prejudicial towards women -

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE = COME IN [OH BY NOT THERE, IN THE CORNER; THAT'S NOT YOUR ROLE] WOMEN? THERE WERENT ANY WOMEN, MOSTLY MEN

Attribution and its problems for women filmmakers

- Essentially looking at parts of the catalogue, you just couldn't see women's labour it was hidden.
- Pictured right Carol Hyde. As her appearance on screen implies, roles within club environments were fluid.

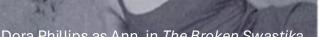
Story & tilles by Carol Hyde.

Screen stills from AV14/4 *The Broken Swastika* (1932). Courtesy of Wessex Film & Sound Archive

Women in Crystal Productions

- **Dora A (née Cox) Phillips** (Camera for *Hand of Fate*, actor *The Broken Swastika*, Secretary 1936). Married mother, worked in the home long standing member.
- Carol (née Hyde) Bedington (Story and titles on both The Broken Swastika, and Retribution. Director and producer on The Broken Swastika. Actor in Retribution. Unpaid domestic duties. Scenarios for lost film Dramatics.
- Vera Dorothy Lyons (née Maskey) Actor in (*The Broken Swastika* and Retribution Scenario for *The Broken Swastika*. Worked as travelling beauty specialist.
- Georgina (née De Coninck) Grey (Hons Secretary, 1930) Music teacher who lived at home with her parents, later married Edwin C Grey (July 1941).
- **Rachael Terry** (Actor in *Retribution* and *The Broken Swastika*)
- Kay Magger (Actor in *The Broken Swastika*)
- Muriel Beatrice M (née Cull) Farrow (Honorary treasurer from around 1933)
- **Phyllis Baker** Actor Hand of Fate
- Mrs Brazier
- Mallaam-Williams (Secretary 1935)

Right: Dora Phillips pictured behind the camera on The Hand of Fate, with Robert Torrens



he Broken Swa

Images from AV14/D1 scrapbo

NE)

"PHONE: Bournemouth 5555. Ext. 5.

A film of the Dancing will be taken during the evening by the Bournemouth Film Club. The film will be shown in a Special Cinema Programme in the Lounge during the week commencing Nov. 16th.

COME AND BE FILMED ON SATURDAY

CONTRACTOR OF

FILM

SATURDAY

NIGHT

Dora Phillips as Ann, in The Broken Swastika

6

WSTAL PRODUCTIONS.

Journemouth Film Club.

EXANDRA HALL, St. Peter's Road,

REX COYSH'S BAND

8-11-45 p.m. 216 (to include Refreahments)-

SATURDAY, 2nd April, 1932,

irst Annual Dance 115

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