

THE SCREEN OF CHANGE

by Peter Hopkinson

The Screen of Change is an as-yet unpublished memoir and historical study from film-maker Peter Hopkinson. The BUFVC has published chapter two, 'Film and Politics', with the generous permission of the author. Below is his resumé of the complete work:

"In this new work Peter Hopkinson writes not only of the history of the motion picture now more than a century old, but also in detail of his own now more than fifty years personal involvement and commitment to its entire spectrum. The point of departure is 'Film and Fiction', which describes film-making in the heyday of Hollywood before television took away its mass audience: how it really was to work alongside such giants as Alexander Korda and King Vidor and on the film which led to Vivien Leigh's casting as Scarlett O'Hara. Based in the main on the author's assignments as cameraman-reporter for *The March of Time*, 'Film and Politics' and 'Film and Personality' relate the struggle for controversy on the screen and the emergence of such as Ed Murrow's *See It Now* as its natural successor. The manipulation of combat coverage from the 1898 Spanish-American war over Cuba to Vietnam and Northern Ireland is the subject of 'Film and War', while 'Film and Race' surveys the portrayal of ethnic minorities on the screen and 'Film and the National Image' how governments and peoples have liked to project themselves to each other and the world at large. Finally what a screen of change might be able to do to help arrest the rape of planet earth is explored in 'Film and the Environment' - with particular reference to Iraq."