



The
MERCIA
BIOSCOPE

No. 88

August 2003



The Capitol Cinema, Walton-on-Thames, decorated for the Coronation of King George VI, in 1937. Photograph from the John Aldred Collection.

In this issue – Blidworth's Scala Cinema / Cecil Hepworth – film pioneer / Newcastle Paramount part 2 / Halifax cinemas - 3 / Notes & Queries

In the colour supplement – small ads. / recent cinema news



MERCIA CINEMA SOCIETY

Registered as charity 1001524 as a national society for the
promotion and publication of research into cinema history
www.merciacinema.org.uk

The MERCIA BIOSCOPE

No. 88 August 2003

ISSN: 0267985X

Editorial advisors: Frank Manders, Christopher Stacey, Kate
Taylor, David R. Williams

Honorary Life Members: **BRIAN HORNSEY** **STUART SMITH** **KATE TAYLOR**

Chairman: **Kate Taylor** M.A. (Oxon.) (also **Trustee**)

19 Pinder's Grove Wakefield Yorkshire WF1 4AH kate@airtime.co.uk

Administrator: **Mervyn Gould**, M.A., Cert.Ed. Mervyn.Gould@virgin.net

29 Blackbrook Court Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 5UA 01509 218393

Mercia Bioscope Editor: **Paul Smith**, B.A., Dip. R. & L.S. 32 Summergate Street
Parkinson Lane Halifax HX1 3QF 01422 381012 Paul@Smith2004.fsnet.co.uk

Treasurer: **Terry Simmons** 33 Blackbrook Court Loughborough

Leicestershire LE11 5UA 01509 266888 terry.simmons@ntlworld.com

Sales Officer: **Stuart Smith** 100 Wickfield Road Hackenthorpe Sheffield
Yorks. S12 4TT 0777 155 4605

Web-master: **Ian Grey** 17 Merlin Close Morley Leeds LS27 8TS

ian@delicolor.org.uk

Public Relations: **Derek Atkins** Christmas Lodge 196 Mount Vale York YO24 1DL

Vice-Chairman & Membership Secretary: **Colin Sanders** (also **Trustee**)

5 Arcadia Avenue Chester-le-Street County Durham DH3 3UH

Len Davies 10 Vineyards Close Charlton Kings Cheltenham Glos. GL53 8NH

Frank Manders, B.A., M.Litt. 4 Greystoke Gardens Sunderland Tyne & Wear SR2 9DZ

0191 528 3068

Anthony Phillips 19 Empress Avenue South Chingford London E4 8SR

Christopher Stacey (also **Trustee**) 23^A Berkeley Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1YR

Jonathan Walker 29 Crawley Avenue Wellingborough Northants. NN8 5YH

Frank Wright 25 May Road Rochester Kent ME1 2HY

Honorary Independent Accountant: **Philip M. Hollins**, M.A.(Cantab.), F.C.A

Contents

Blidworth's Scala Cinema	1	Review – <i>Picture Palaces of Liverpool</i>	33
Cecil Hepworth – film pioneer	8	Letter - <i>Korda's films and Denham</i>	34
Newcastle Paramount part 2	14	Notes & Queries	35
Halifax cinemas – part 3	25	Cinema news	colour supplement

MERCIA PUBLICATIONS

The Black Family of Sunderland	Frank Manders	£ 2.00
Buckinghamshire Picture Palaces	Martin Tapsell	£ 2.50
Ribbon of Dreams (Cardiff cinemas)	Gary Wharton	£8.85/£7.50
Temple of Dreams (Eastbourne)	Peter R. Hodges	£ 7.00
Cinemas of Essex	Bob Grimwood	£13.50/12.00 (+£3.20p+p)
The Cinemas of Halifax and Calderdale	S Smith/B Hornsey	£7.50/£7.00
The Cinemas of Huddersfield and Kirklees	S Smith/B Hornsey	£8.50/£8.00
Cinemas of Keighley & the Aire Valley	Stuart Smith	£6.00/£4.90
Cinemas of Lincoln	George Clarke	£ 4.00
Loughborough's Stage & Screen (+ Coalville & the Deeming Circuit)	Mervyn Gould	£15.50/£13.00
Cinemas of Mexborough & Dearne Valley	Stuart Smith	£ 7.20/£6.00
The Picture Man (Northampton cinemas)	Arthur Northover	£9.50/£8.50
The Dream Palaces of Oxford	Sean Currell	£ 3.00
Chronicles of Pendle Picture Palaces	Peter Sagar	£7.50/6.50
Dream Palaces of Richmond-on-Thames	Fred Windsor	£ 2.30
Rotherham Film Pioneers	Stuart Smith	£ 2.60
The long-gone cinemas of Swale in Kent	John Clancy	£ 4.50 / £4.00
The Cinemas of South Tyneside	Doris Johnson	£ 5.80
Wakefield Cinema Story	Kate Taylor	£ 7.75/£5.50
Cinemas of North Wales	Brian Hornsey	£ 8.25
Going to the Pictures in Wharfedale	Stuart Smith	£4.50/£4.00
Remembering Whitstable Cinemas	Michael Glover	£6.50/£5.50
Cinemas of the Weisker Brothers	Brian Hornsey	£2.00
Cinemas of York	Peter Wren/ Kate Taylor	£ 6.90/£5.50

- Orders to Sales Officer **100 Wickfield Road Hackenthorpe Sheffield S12 4TT**
- Cheques to **Mercia Cinema Society (+ membership number for discount)**
 - All prices include post & packing unless otherwise stated
 - Sales telephone line 0777 155 4605

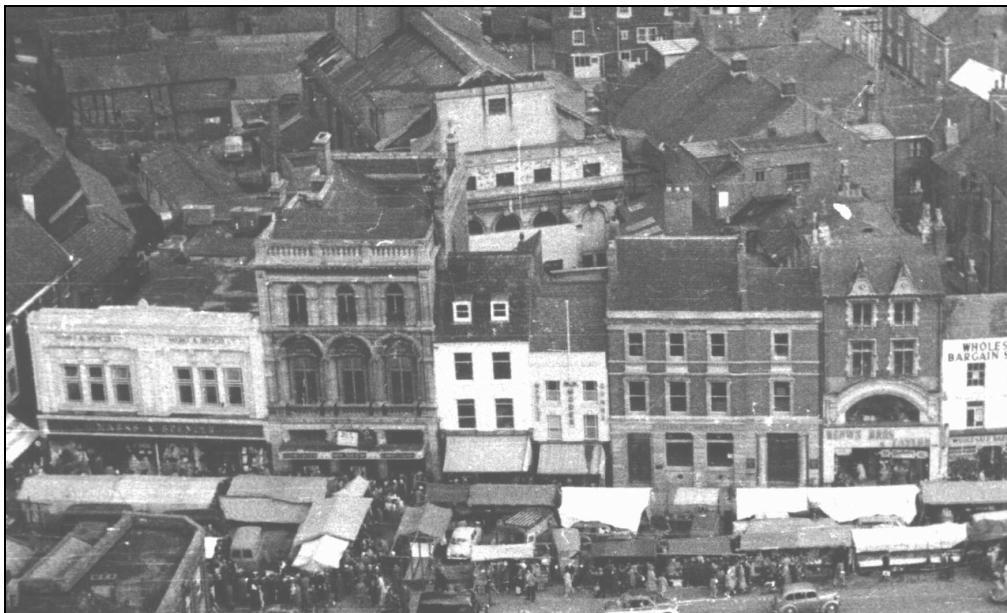
About The **MERCIA BIOSCOPE**

The *Mercia Bioscope* is the quarterly journal of the Mercia Cinema Society, published in February, May, August, and November. Opinions expressed in this issue are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the editor, committee, or society. Letters, articles and notes are welcomed, but the editor reserves the right to edit any published. **Society membership costs £10 per annum.** www.merciacinema.org.uk

© No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the author and publisher in writing. Scan re-touching by Ian Houseman, typeset and copy-fitted in 11-point Book Antiqua by Mervyn Gould, printed by Q3 Digital/Litho, Loughborough, and published by the **MERCIA CINEMA SOCIETY 19 Pinder's Grove Wakefield West Yorkshire WF1 4AH** 01924 372748 kate@airtime.co.uk

Another new publication by **Mercia** – out in the summer
Cinemas of a Cathedral City – Durham

– David R. Williams' latest writing



Boston: The New Theatre (closed April 1960) and Scala (closed to public 1941 – here façade as Brown Bros. & Taylor), in May 1961. Both erected behind existing Market Place buildings. The white 1926 box of the New is next to that of the 1914 Scala. The auditorium roofs can be seen, with the theatre's fly-tower and the Scala stage lantern-light. The New was demolished Oct/Nov 1961 for M&S store extension – the Scala is now 'Poundstretcher'.

Photographed from the 'Stump' by Patrick Butler: from the Gould Theatre Collection.

From the **FUCHSIAPRINT** booklist

Ninety years of cinema in Somerset – Brian Hornsey (32pp.)

Cinema Miscellany 21 - London Townships 1

- Acton, Brixton, Ealing, Wimbledon.

Cinema Circuits

The cinemas of H.D. Moorhouse and the H.D.M. circuit.

The cinemas of the Shipman & King circuit.

From the sales office (see overleaf) at the usual low price of £1.70 inc. postage.