Barnouw’s- “Chronicler”

Another way of saying “Compilation films”

Compilation film: “A film made primarily from existing film or photographic material”

Today the massive available film/video record makes this even easier to do & far more important

ESFIR SHUB

- Worked with Vertov -- recutting newsreels
- Helped estab. 1st film archive in Russia (Moscow)
- Began producing films with this material -- The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty most important
Real Surge after W.W. II

- The documentarist as “historian” - a new role
- Availability of wartime footage (& movie newsreels, military footage, government films, etc.)
- The advent of television broadcasting provided a ready market for “historical” docs.

David Wolper

- Bought the entire Nazi film archive at auction in N.Y. for $10,000
- Began producing series for TV: Victory at Sea, 20th Century, etc.
- Compilation series almost standard TV fare today

Important Compilation Films

- City of Gold - Colin Low & Wolf Koenig -- Nat. FB of Canada
- Night and Fog - Alain Resnais
- The World at War Series -- Thames Television /BBC
  until recently, the most successful compilation series ever made
**Value of “Historical” Films**

1. Vividness in bridging time
2. Condensed perspective of a situation
3. Can confirm actions that might overwhelm written account
4. Physical condition of people / places
5. Attitudes of people shown in them
6. Sense of personality (Roosevelt, Hitler, Kennedy, King)

**Problems with Film as “Historical Evidence”**

1. Availability -- collections, archives, private owners, etc.
2. Preservation / storage
3. Indexing, cataloging, dating
4. Finding supporting materials
   What is a “primary” source?

**Film as Historical Document**

For 1st time filmmakers trying to confront issues familiar to historians:

1. dating materials
2. questions of authenticity, verifying accuracy of what we are watching
3. point-of-view -- eliminating bias
4. sponsorship
5. supporting info. - notes, diaries, etc.
Christopher Rhoades

Ranked value of film/video materials as “historical evidence”:
1. unedited with cameraman’s notes
2. unedited
3. edited only to remove technical errors
4. edited in way that changes context (newsreels, news reports)
5. the more “manipulated” = less value

Steven Okazaki

DAYS OF WAITING
(1991)
Won Academy Award for Documentary short subject

Ken Burns

Best known & most successful compilation filmmaker in the world today
The Statue of Liberty
The Civil War
Baseball
Other Compilation Films

The Nazi Officer’s Wife (2003)
Liz Garbus

Easy Riders, Raging Bulls (2002)
Kenneth Browser

Grizzly Man (2005)
Werner Herzog

Why We Fight (2006)
Eugene Jarecki
Won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance

Tarnation (2004)
Jonathan Caouette
Uses family films, vids, photos with computer graphics programs, drawings, titles