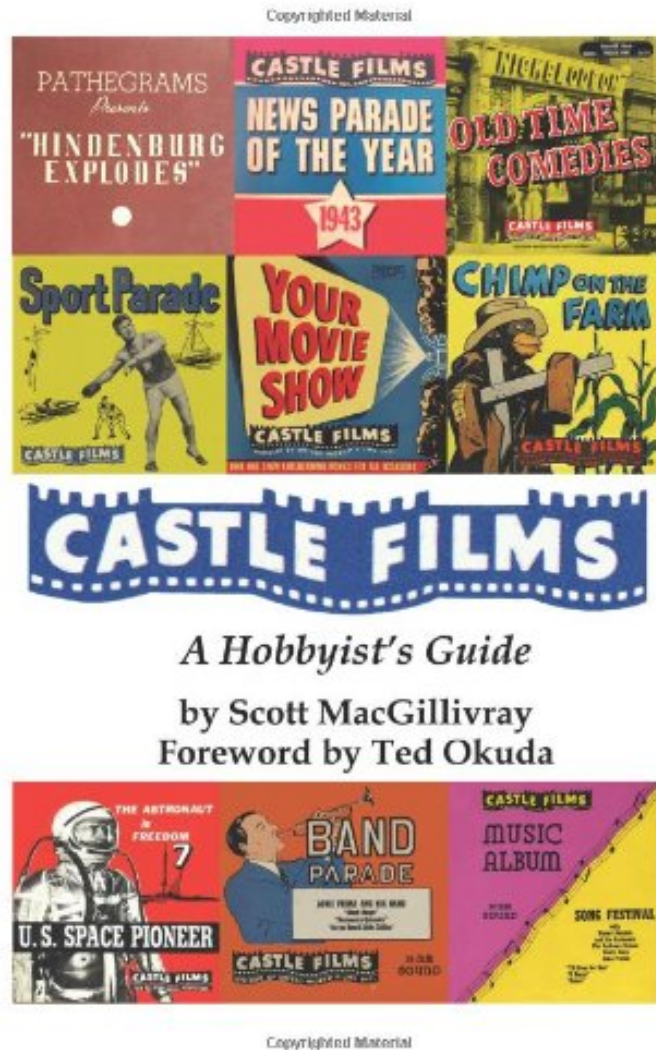


Castle Films: A Hobbyist's Guide

Scott MacGillivray

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#921004 in Books Scott MacGillivray 2004-08-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.09 x 6.00l, 1.48 #File Name: 0595324916434 pagesCastle Films A Hobbyist s Guide | File size: 62.Mb

Scott MacGillivray : Castle Films: A Hobbyist's Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Castle Films: A Hobbyist's Guide:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. COOL BOOKBy J. HessAmazing collection of information on Castle films....a fantastic resource for film collectors! Learned things I never knew about these great films.4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. OUTRAGEOUS - VERY DISAPPOINTING!By darkhorseCTFirst of all, I am avid collector of 8mm and Super 8 films and cameras. I have over two hundred 50'and 200' Castle Films movie reels. From the moment I opened this book, I said "oh no"! The index is an absolute nightmare. The author simply cannot take reference material and organize it. The author's obsession is with box numbers, which are of little to no

interest to the collector, and while he states that "part of the fun of Castle Films is the carton the film came in", there are exactly two (2) photographs of the individual film boxes in this entire book - out of the hundreds of Castle Films titles released - and these two are photographed in black and white. If you are looking for a specific film, good luck, as you will have to know the box number. The index, or "contents", will be of no help at all. Look two-thirds of the way into the book and you will find an incomplete alphabetical listing, from which you will have to refer to another section for more details. Further, these films were released on regular 8, super 8, and 16mm formats - but not all of them. They were released in "headline" (50'), and "complete" (200') editions - but not all of them. They were released with "magnetic sound" and "optical sound" - but not all of them. Some were released in color (now "red" thanks to Eastman color), some in both color and black and white, and some only in black and white. You will find absolutely no reference to which film has which and which does not in this book. The "best" part of the book is the research into the history of Castle Films itself, and perhaps some detail into the individual films themselves. Then again, where the author has no information on a particular film, it is left blank. Other titles are repeated in different "chapters" of the book. For what it has to offer, this book should have been the cost of a magazine. Research books normally are, and should be, very useful and informative. The kind of hands on book that you can hold on your lap while doing your research. Whether you are collecting coins, stamps, currency, hair pins, or thimbles, there should be a useable index (hence the word "reference"), color photographs (this isn't 1912), and some sense of organizational skill. Yet the best reference material on Castle Films remains with the Castle Films catalogs themselves. If you want useable reference material on Castle Films, go on ebay and search "Castle Films catalogs". Buy an early one (from the 40s-60s), and a "new" one from the 70s. You will have films listed by category ("travel", "science fiction", "westerns", etc), information as to the content in each film, color photographs for almost every film, information on film speed and running time, information on each film's available format, sound, and color, and what do you know - even box numbers! 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Superb!!! By K. W. Wardle This is the kind of book I've been waiting years for! So how about 'A Hobbyist's Guide to Ken Films and Columbia' next???

Do you remember the first movie you ever owned? It was probably a product of Castle Films. Before home video, Castle Films made every living room a screening room. For four decades the 16mm and 8mm film products of Castle Films were sold in every department store and hobby shop. Castle had big-screen movies for everybody: comedies with Abbott Costello, The Marx Brothers, and W. C. Fields monster movies with Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Wolfman cartoons with Woody Woodpecker, Chilly Willy, and Mighty Mouse westerns with Clint Eastwood, John Wayne, and James Stewart travelogues of the world's picturesque places newsreels of major headline stories musicals with top singers and bandleaders. Collectors have always wanted a reference book detailing the total output of Castle Films. Here it is. Castle Films: A Hobbyist's Guide is a complete filmography of every title printed between 1937 and 1977. For handy reference, there are separate indexes by title, subject, and serial number, a listing of Castle's color film releases, and a special section "decoding" Castle's various pseudonym titles and disclosing the "true identities" of many films. Castle Films: A Hobbyist's Guide is a fascinating, nostalgic look at one of the pioneers of home entertainment.

About the Author Scott MacGillivray is the author of Laurel Hardy: From the Forties Forward and co-author with Ted Okuda of The Soundies Distributing Corporation of America. He has reviewed many of Hollywood's 'B' pictures and serials for Filmfax magazine. He lives near Boston with his wife, Jan.