

CINEMA BEFORE CINEMA

THE ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC CINEMATOGRAPHY

VIRGILIO TOSI

This classic history of early film and photography, first published in 1984, describes the scientific impulses behind sequence photographers such as Eadweard Muybridge and Étienne-Jules Marey, whose work led directly to the birth of cinema.

Virgilio Tosi's scholarly and entertaining account traces the roots of scientific cinematography back to the pioneering discoveries in the mid-19th century of Roget, Plateau, Stampfer, Purkyn and others, through to the huge achievements in sequence photography made by the twin giants of the field, Muybridge and Marey.

Tosi tells of the achievements of those chronophotographers who followed Marey, such as Georges Demeny and Albert Londe, and looks at the innovations at the turn of the century of such noted scientific filmmakers as Lucien Bull, Jean Comandon and Eugène-Louis Doyen. A new chapter brings the author's research up to date, while calling for the search for the origins of scientific cinematography to go on.

Cinema Before Cinema is an essential text for all those interested in the history of cinema, the history of photography, and in the application of moving images to the needs of education and science.

THE ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC CINEMATOGRAPHY DVD

THE ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC CINEMATOGRAPHY is a three-part documentary film series directed by Virgilio Tosi. These acclaimed films complement Tosi's book *Cinema Before Cinema*, using archive film and original equipment to show how cinematography had its origins not in the music hall or the fairground, but in the laboratory, as scientists of the 19th and early 20th centuries attempted to find new ways of seeing and measuring the natural world.

Subjects covered include Jules Janssen's 'photographic revolver' (1873-4), Eadweard Muybridge's development of serial photography of human and animal locomotion (1878-87); Étienne-Jules Marey's 'photographic gun' (1882), and his models of the Chronophotographe (1882-93); technical advancements of scientific cinematography between 1883 and 1914 and in different countries; and a compilation of sequences from twenty fascinating scientific films, made between 1895 and 1911.

THE ORIGINS OF SCIENTIFIC CINEMATOGRAPHY
is now available in English on DVD for the first time.

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BUFVC, 2005

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