



# **Rediscovering Thanhouser: Digital Resources for Cinema Studies Research**

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Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc.

Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2005

# Thanhouser Beginnings

- Edwin and Gertrude Thanhouser
- Stage and Theatrical Management Careers
- Studio Founded 1909 in New Rochelle, NY
- First to head an American studio with theatrical background



# Thanhouser Films (1909-1917)

- 1,000+ films released to Worldwide distribution
  - Extant films: 186 at 24 sites
- 2/3 Drama
  - Classics
  - Original Scenarios
  - Shakespeare
- 1/3 Comedy
  - Falstaff brand
- Princess Films
  - Muriel Ostriche

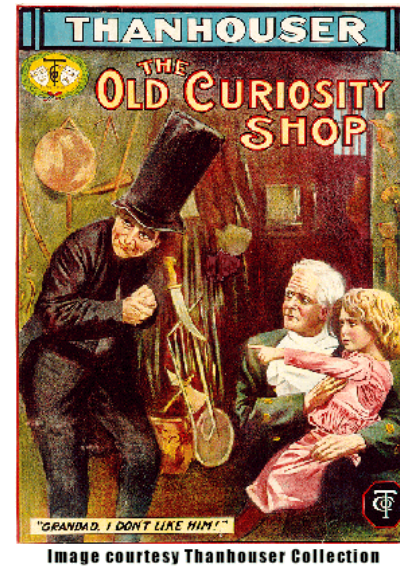
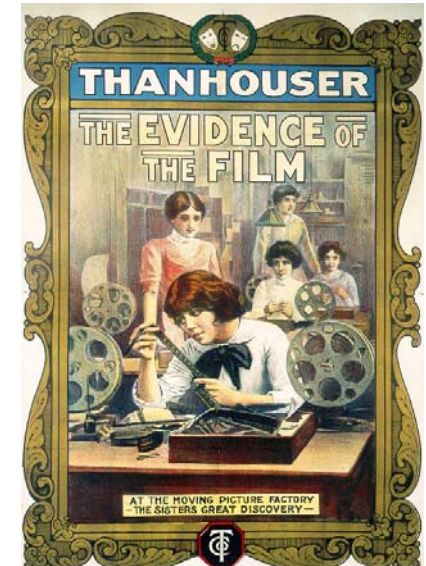


Image courtesy Thanhouser Collection

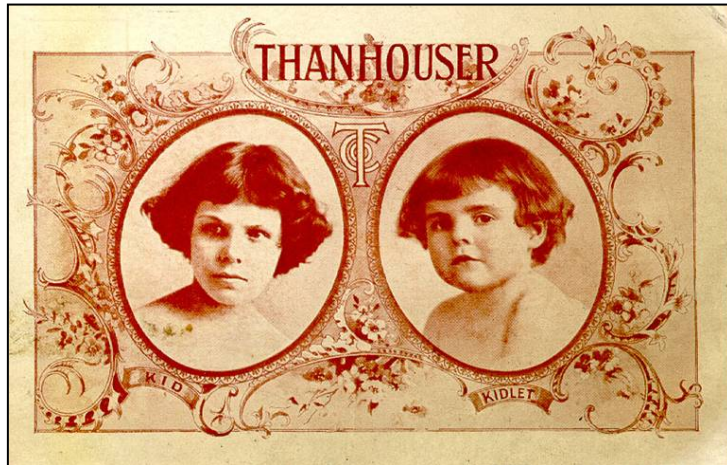
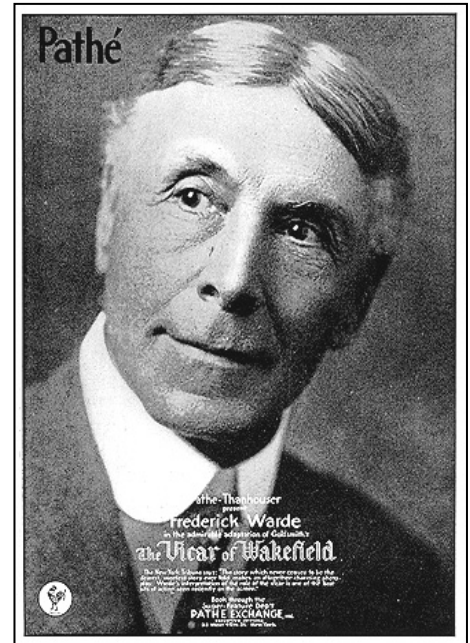


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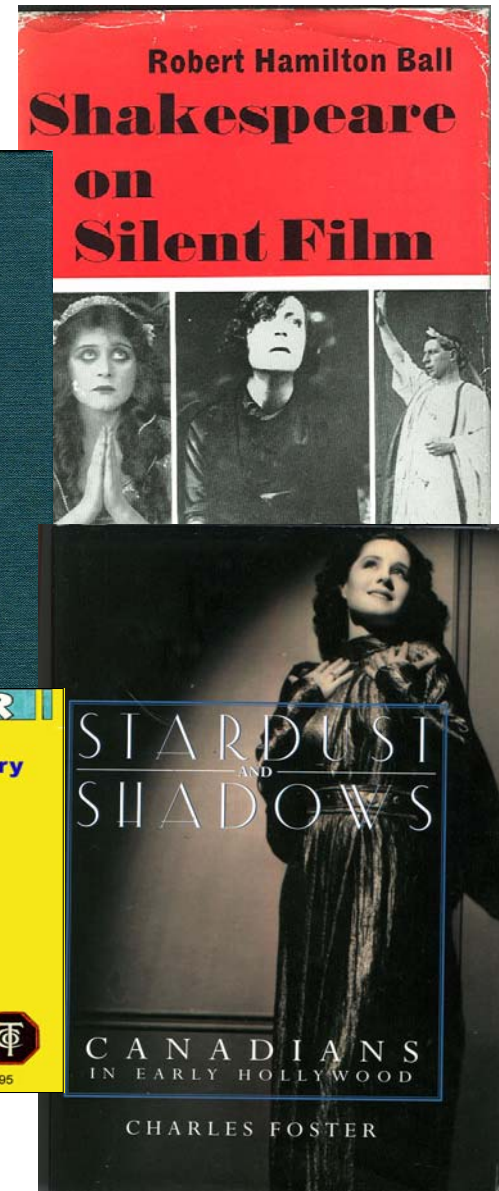
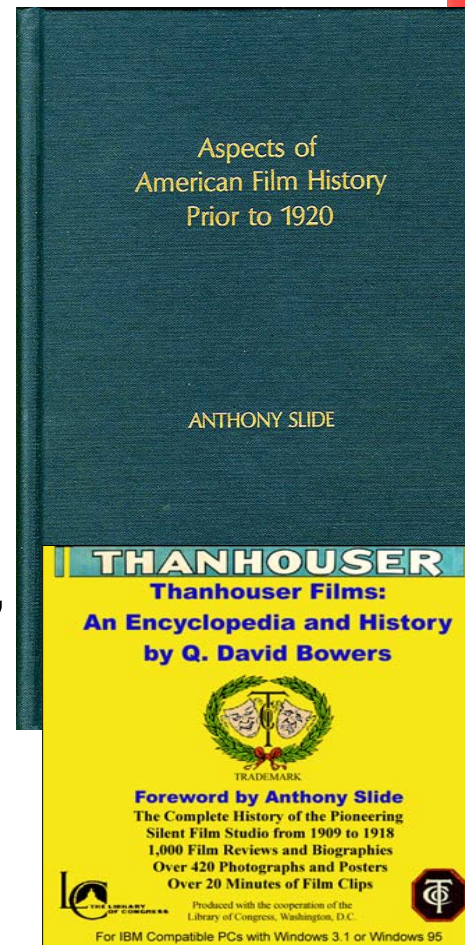
# Notable Stars

- James Cruze
- Frederick Warde
- Jeanne Eagels
- Florence LaBadie
- Marie Eline (Kid) and Helen Badgley (Kidlet)



# Thanhouser Research

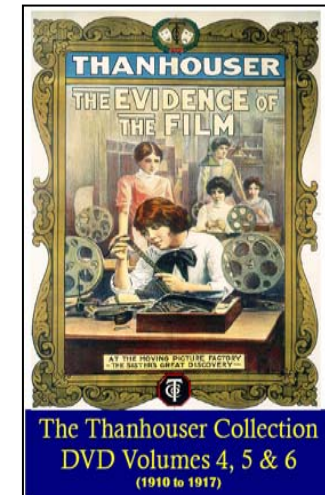
- Robert Hamilton Ball (1968)
  - Shakespeare on Silent Film
  - Interview with Edwin Thanhouser
- Anthony Slide (1978)
  - *Aspects of American Cinema Prior to 1920* – Chapter 8
- Q. David Bowers (1995)
  - Encyclopedic Research Effort
  - Narrative History, Filmography, Biographies
  - Over 3,000 articles on every aspect of Thanhouser Studio
  - Over 100 Bibliographic entries
- Charles Foster (2000)
  - Florence LaBadie (pps 123-149)





# New Digital Resources for Cinema Studies Research

- **Thanhouser Web Site**
  - [www.thanhouser.org](http://www.thanhouser.org)
- **Thanhouser Films: An Encyclopedia and History** by Q. David Bowers
  - Interactive CD-ROM
- **The Thanhouser Collection**
  - Six DVDs with 26 films



# Thanhouser Site

- [www.thanhouser.org](http://www.thanhouser.org)
  - Research Center
    - History & research links
  - Image Gallery
    - Ads, post cards, glass slides, heralds, studio shots and more
  - Preservation Activities
    - Recent discoveries
  - Films on Video - DVD and VHS
    - Synopsis on all available films
  - Press Room
    - News and reviews on films
  - Thanhouser Films Encyclopedia
    - Details & reviews on CD-ROM
  - Over 500 pages online



Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Thanhouser photographer and cameraman Lawrence Williams with his equipment (Courtesy of the American Museum of the Moving Image/Lawrence Williams Collection)

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**Thanhouser Company**

**What's New?**  
**26 Silent Films Now on DVD Video**

**Complete Listing of Over 1,000 Thanhouser Films**

**Order Online with PayPal**



**Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc.**, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization involved in the research, acquisition, preservation and publication of educational materials related to the early silent motion picture era, with a specific focus on the Thanhouser film enterprise.

From its founding in 1909 through 1917, Thanhouser Company, and its successor company, Mutual's Thanhouser Film Corporation, produced and released over 1,000 silent films to worldwide distribution.

**Want to learn more about film preservation? Check out:**  
[The Library of Congress](#)  
[Association of Moving Image Archivists](#)  
[American Film Institute](#)  
[National Film Preservation Foundation](#)  
[UCLA Film & Television Archive](#)

**Film Preservation, Inc.**

**Thanhouser Collection Volumes 1, 2 & 3**

**Thanhouser Collection Volumes 4, 5 & 6**

**Research Center** New

**Image Gallery** New

**Preservation Activities**

**Video Products**

**Press Room**

**Thanhouser Films: An Encyclopedia and History**  
by Q. David Bowers  
**Available Now on CD-ROM!**

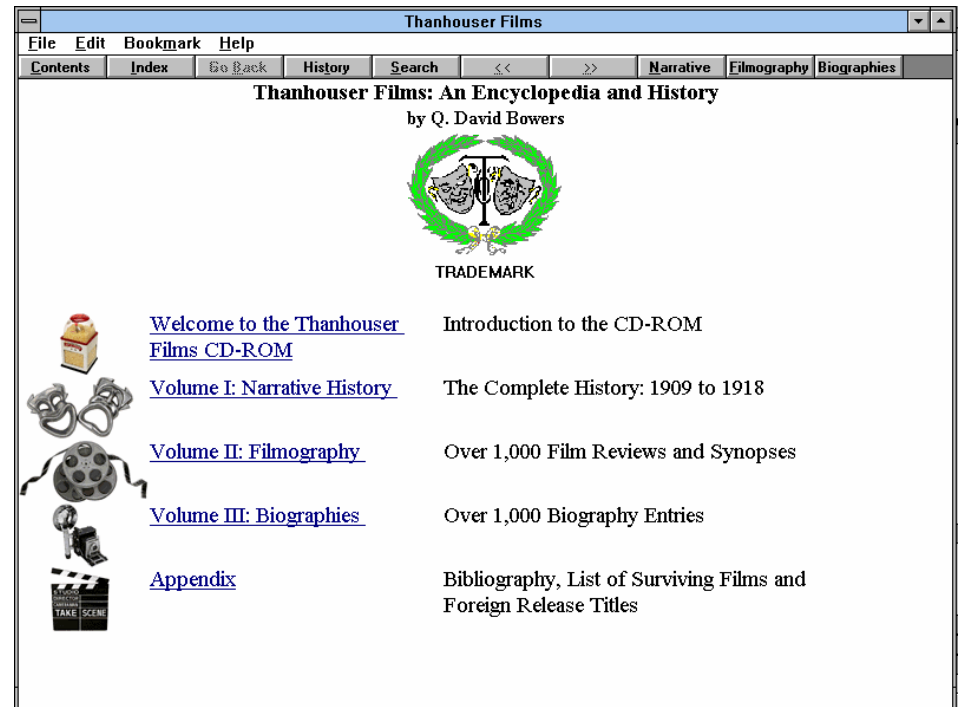
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# Thanhouser Films CD-ROM: An Encyclopedia and History

by Q. David Bowers

- Full text search of over 3,000 articles
- Over 440 images with caption text search
- Over 20 minutes of 32 unique film clips
- Index to all productions, studio employees and surviving films



“...a resource for primary documents, it is marvelous, and it provides fodder for several dissertations and a host of journal articles.” – Kathryn Seeley





# Thanhouser DVD – Vol. 1, 2 & 3

**DVD #1 *The Early Years* (1910 – 1912)** Five films made when Edwin Thanhouser was directly managing the day-to-day activities of the company:

- *Only in the Way* (1911) TRT 12:14
- *Get Rich Quick* (1911) TRT 12:46
- *The Coffin Ship* (1911) TRT 14:37
- *Cinderella* (1911) TRT 14:23
- *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1912) TRT 11:31

**DVD #2 *Under the Mutual Banner* (1912 – 1915)** Five films released under the Mutual banner, including a Princess Release featuring Muriel Ostriche:

- *The Cry of the Children* (1912) TRT 28:47
- *Petticoat Camp* (1912) TRT 14:50
- *The Star of Bethlehem* (1912) TRT 15:13
- *The Decoy* (Princess, 1914) TRT 16:02
- *A Dog's Love* (1914) TRT 11:12

**DVD #3 *Edwin Thanhouser Returns* (1915 – 1917)** Three films released under the Falstaff and Pathé banners, including the feature film *The World and the Woman* with legendary actress Jeanne Eagels:

- *Crossed Wires* (1915) TRT 30:58
- *The Soap Suds Star* (1915, Falstaff) TRT 14:38
- *The World and the Woman* (1916, Pathé) TRT 1:06:00

**Total Running Time: 4 hours, 22 minutes**



# Thanhouser DVD – Vol. 4, 5 & 6

**DVD #4 *The Vicar of Wakefield*** Two versions of Oliver Goldsmith's 1764 story (a 1910 one-reeler and a 1917 six reel feature film starring Frederick Warde) provides a unique view into the evolution of the early film industry:

- *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1910) TRT 13:20
- *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1917) TRT 1:29:30

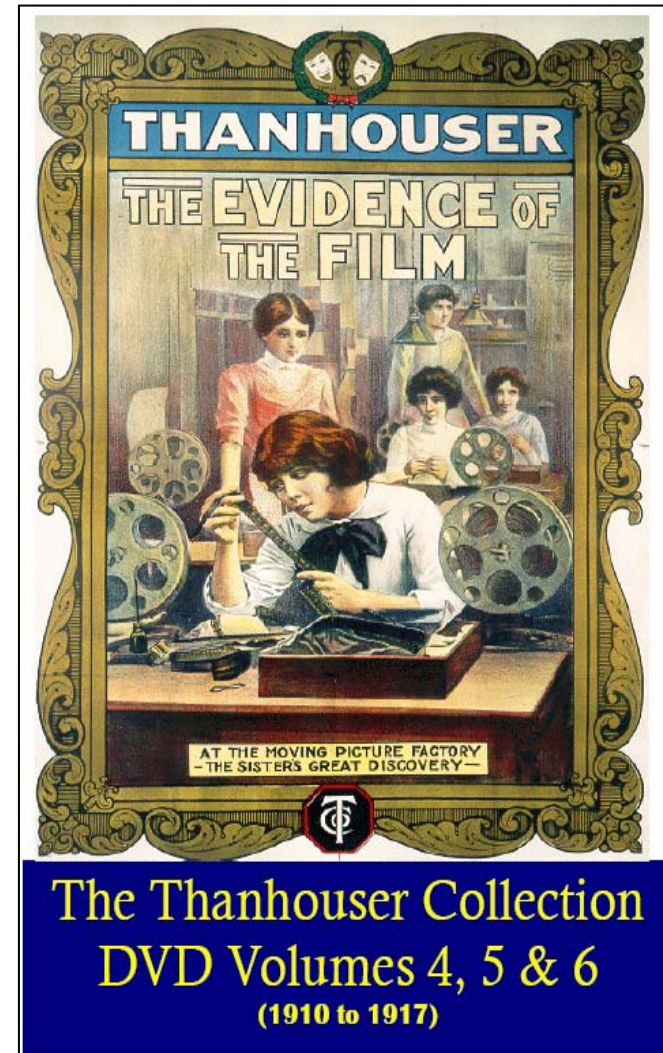
**DVD #5 *Thanhouser Kids and Dogs*** Seven films, including *The Evidence of the Film*, selected by the National Film Preservation Board for the [National Film Registry](#) because of its cultural, historical and aesthetic significance:

- *The Little Girl Next Door* (1912) TRT 14:20
- *The Evidence of the Film* (1913) TRT 14:30
- *The Tiniest of Stars* (1913) TRT 15:45
- *Just a Shabby Doll* (1913) TRT 14:40
- *Uncle's Namesakes* (1913) TRT 15:00
- *Shep's Race with Death* (1914) TRT 12:15
- *Their One Love* (1915) TRT 15:20

**DVD #6 *The Thanhouser Stars Emerge*** Four films featuring popular Thanhouser "stars," including Florence Labadie, James Cruze, Marquette Snow, William Russell, the Thanhouser Dog "Shep," Broadway star Jeanne Eagels, and Shakespearean actor Frederick Warde:

- *She* (1912) TRT 24:40
- *Marble Heart* (1913) TRT 26:50
- *Madam Blanche, Beauty Doctor* (1915, *Falstaff*) TRT 13:35
- *Fires of Youth* (1917) TRT 31:12

**Total Running Time: 4 hours, 58 minutes**



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# Recent Thanhouser Research

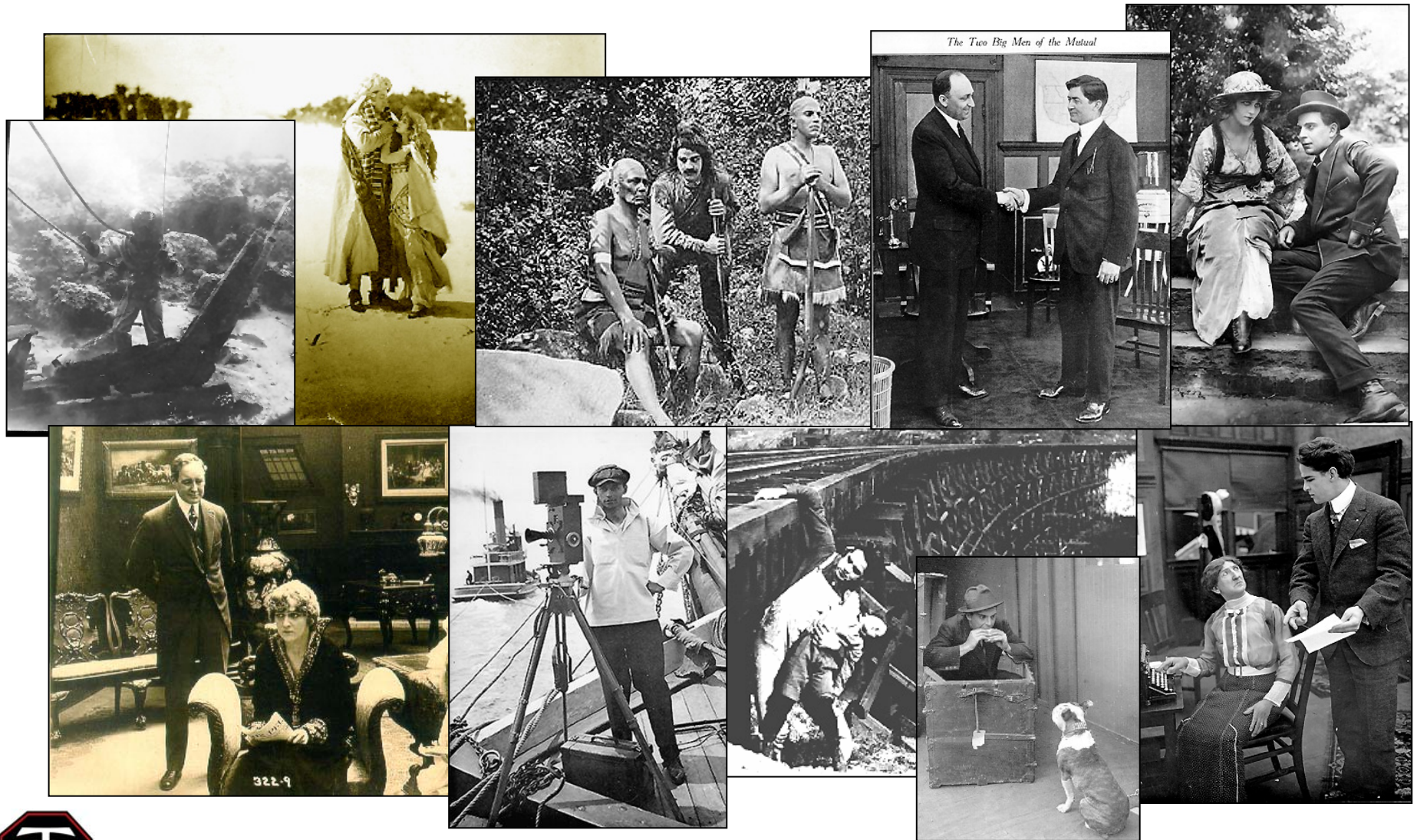
Available online <http://www.thanhouser.org/research.htm>

- **Notes on Thanhouser's *The Evidence of the Film***
  - by Harper Cossar (2004)
- **Lloyd Lonergan and the Development of Film Scripts at the Thanhouser Studio**
  - by Lindsay Harris (2004)
- **The Construction of Educational Value in Thanhouser Silent Film**
  - by RuAnn Kieth (2004)
- **The Cinema of Special Effects Attractions and Its Representation of Reality: The Comparison between the Early Tricks and Digital Effects**
  - by Jae Hyung Ryu (2004)
- **Acting for the Camera: Dramatic Styles in Thanhouser Studio Films**
  - by Frances Pici (2003)
- **The Influence of D.W. Griffith on Thanhouser's 1913 Release: *The Evidence of the Film***
  - by Ned Thanhouser (2003)
- ***The Evidence of the Film* Shot-by-shot Analysis**
  - by Ned Thanhouser (2003)
- **The Social Impact of Thanhouser's 1912 *The Cry of the Children***
  - by Ned Thanhouser (2003)





# Thanhouser Company Legacy



Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc.