



Lost and Found: The Provenance of Thanhouser Films

Ned Thanhouser

Domitor 2018

Rochester, New York

Thanhouser Studio Films: 1910 to 1917

Incorporated October 25, 1909
New Rochelle, NY

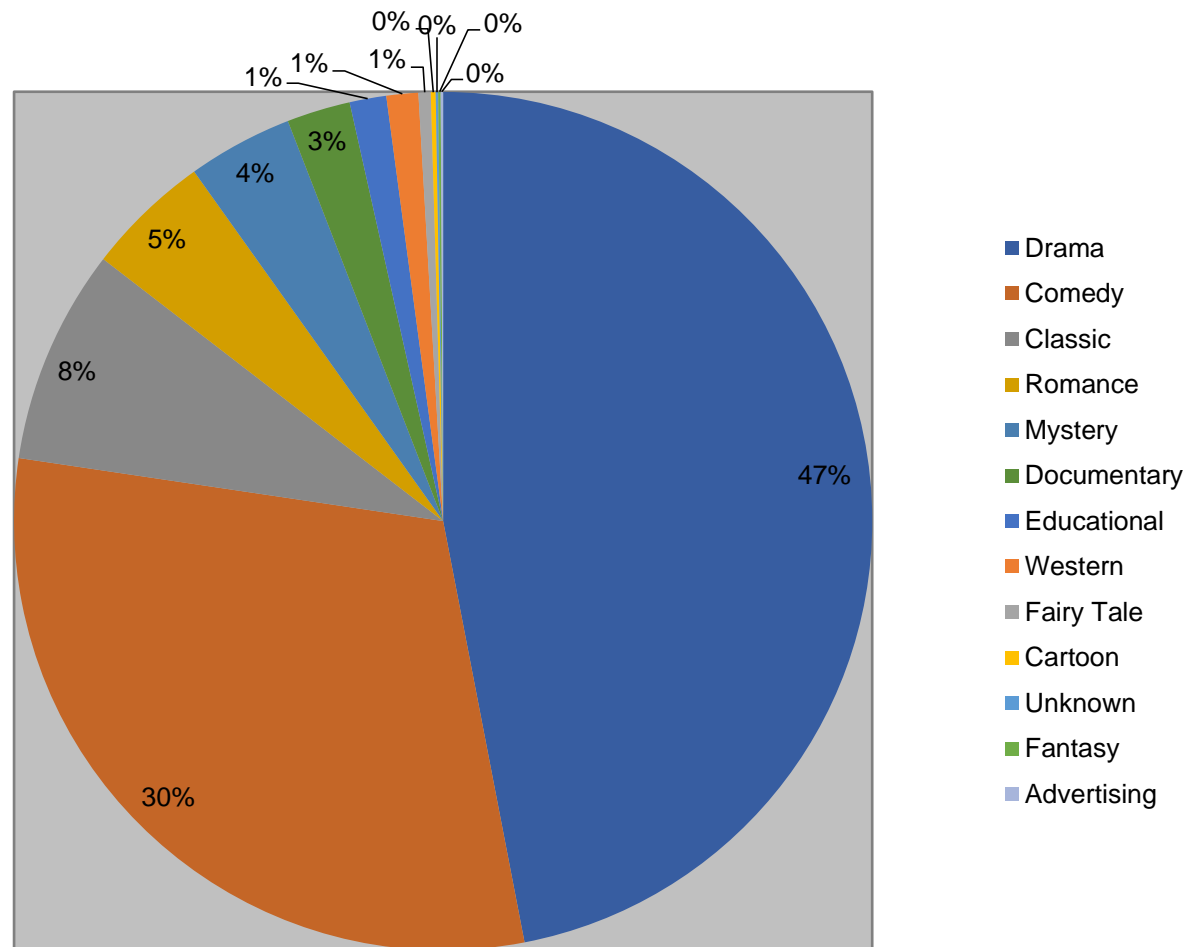
First Film March 15, 1910
The Actor's Children

Last Film October 7, 1917
The Heart of Ezra Greer

Total of 1,086 Films Released In
Just Under 8 Years

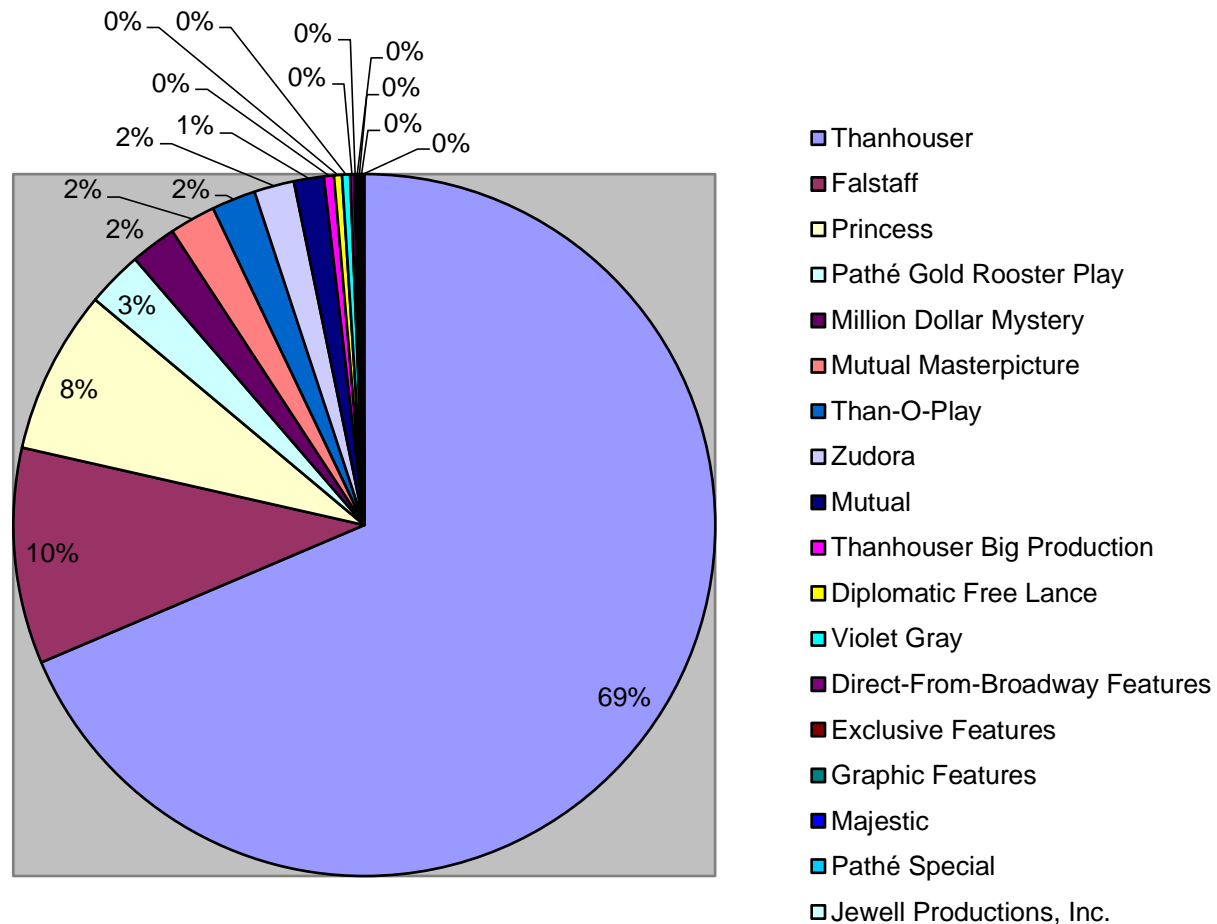
Thanhouser Filmography Analysis of 1,086 Titles

Thanhouser Releases by Character 1910 thru 1917



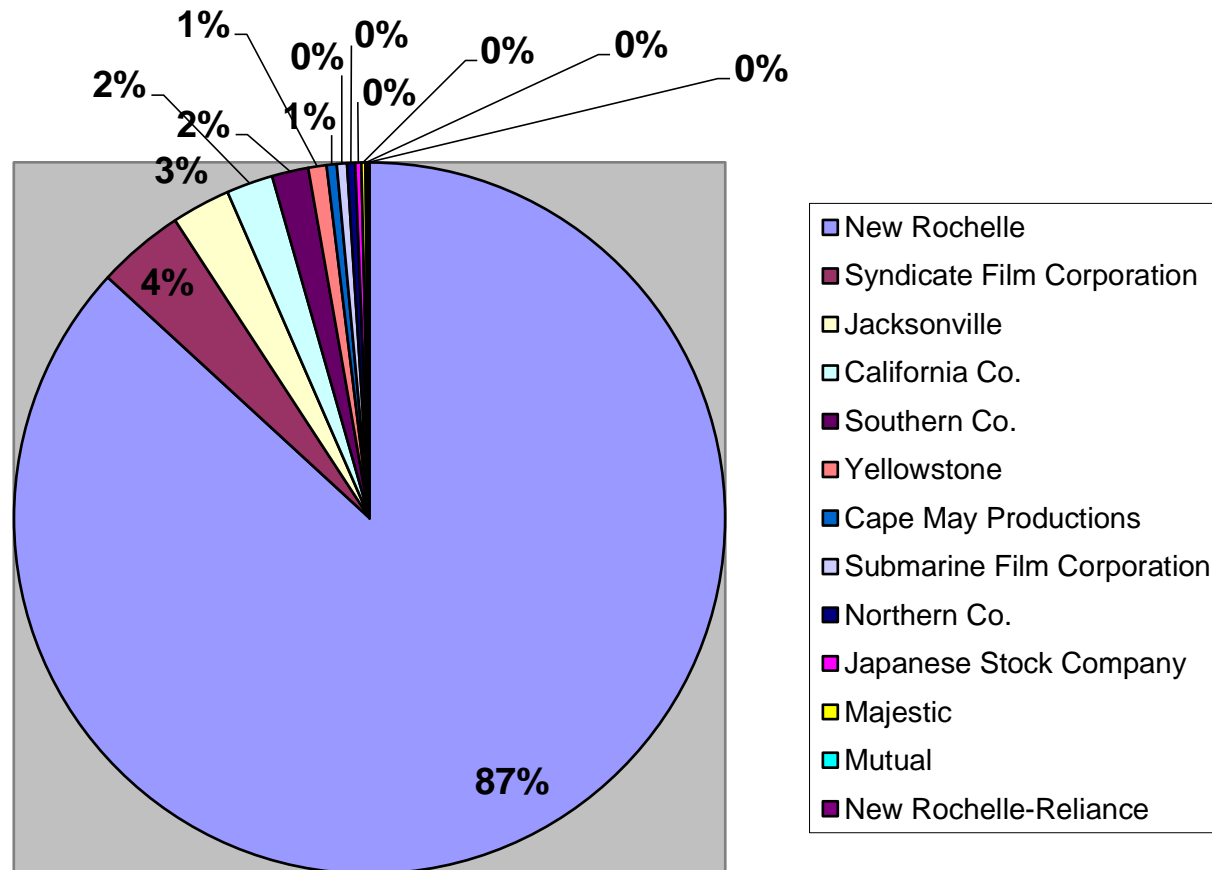
Thanhouser Filmography Analysis of 1,086 Titles

**Thanhouser Releases by Brand
1910 thru 1917**



Thanhouser Filmography Analysis of 1,086 Titles

Thanhouser Releases by Production Company
1910 thru 1917



Thanhouser Films

Extant (37 Sites): 254
Unique Titles (15%): 163
Published: 76

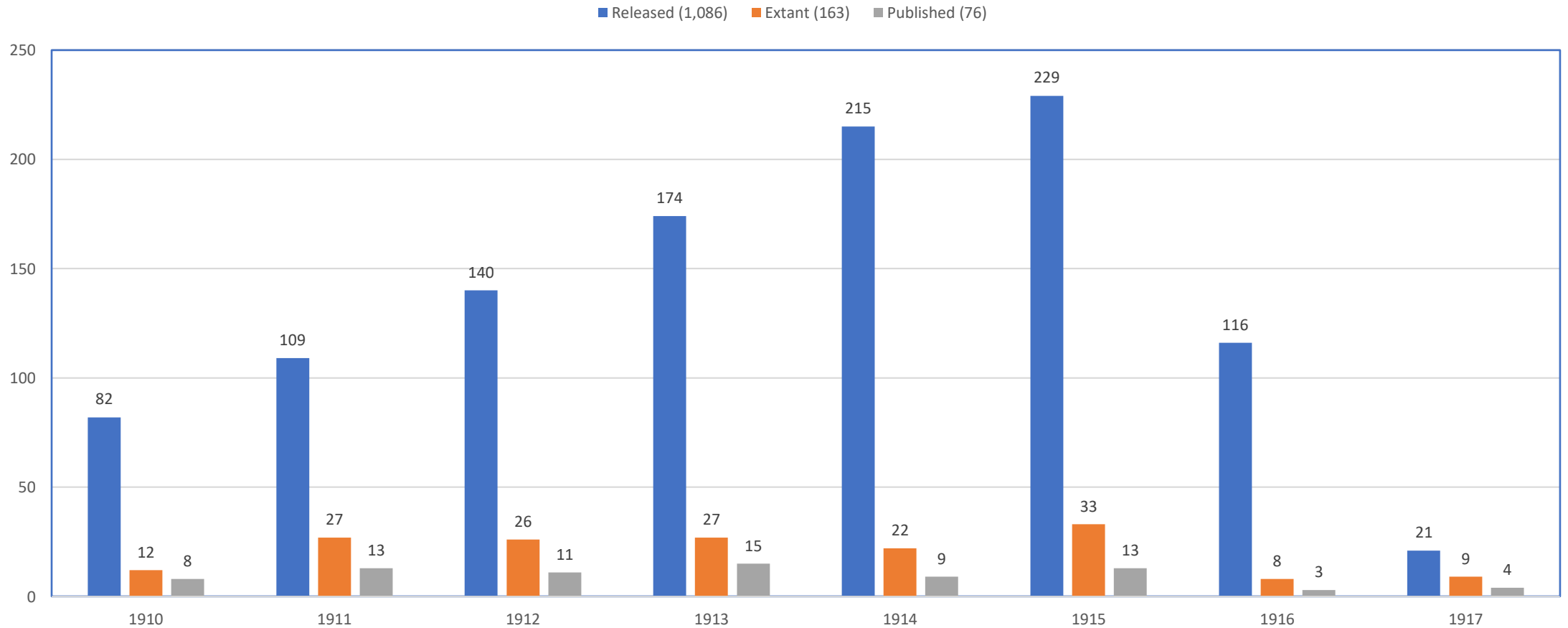
As of June 1, 2018
www.thanhouser.org

<u>Locations (Top 10)</u>	<u>Films</u>
Library of Congress	71
British Film Institute	40
JEF Films*	19
George Eastman Museum	18
EYE Filmmuseum	15
Library and Archives Canada	11
J.E. Allen**	10
Niles Essanay Film Museum	10
Academy Film Archive	9
MoMA	9
TOTAL (83% of extant)	211

* Private archive (Jeff Aikman), includes Tarbox collection, non-responsive to access requests.

** Gift to LoC, inventory has yet to locate any of these titles.

Extant Thanhouser Film Analysis (by Title)



Thanhouser Distribution Channels



Thanhouser Films Distributed as an Independent Producer

July 1910



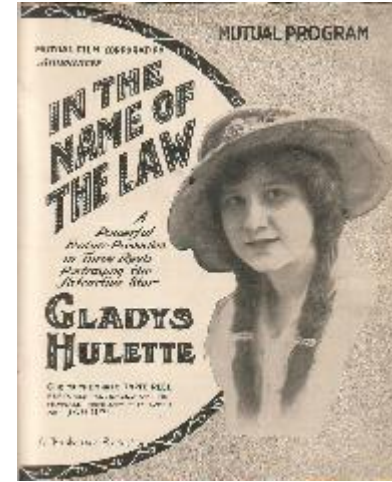
March 1910

Agreement with Motion Picture Distributing and Sales Company



Sale of Thanhouser Company to Mutual Film Corporation

July 1916



April 1912

Ejected from Mutual Program, Distribution via Pathé Exchanges, Inc.



Thanhouser International Distribution

United Kingdom (>95% of all titles)

The Gaumont Co., Ltd. (1910)

Western Import Co., Ltd. (1913)

Thanhouser Films, Ltd. (1914) &

Pathé Frères Cinema, Ltd. (1914)

France (~54 titles)

Charles Helfer (1912)

M.P. Sales Agency (1912)

Thanhouser (1914)

Pathé Frères (1916)

Thanhouser Extant Films Provenance

Three Case Studies

- *A Doll's House* (1911)
 - Around the World in 107 Years
- *Cinderella* (1911)
 - Most Extant Copies
- *The Evidence of the Film* (1913)
 - Lost and Found → National Film Registry

A Doll's House (1911)

4 THE MOVING PICTURE NEWS

"PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN" OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st

THE THANHOUSER WO-A-WEEK

RELEASED TUESDAY, JULY 25
Another Thanhouser Detective Story

THE SMUGGLERS

is a film mystery story of the first class, one that places your bill for the day you run it amongst bills of the first class. So let this be your feature picture that day, especially if it's a very warm day, for the picture is a logical warm weather release with enough breezy escapades in it to keep it cool. The portrayal of the gang of the petty smuggler and the detective who trapped her is most realistic, and indeed, each player in the picture puts over his part in a way that pleases.

No. 229. Code Word, Smug.



RELEASED FRIDAY, JULY 28
Another Exclusive Classic

A DOLL'S HOUSE

BY HENRIK IBSEN

is the answer of the Thanhouser Company to the call of the exhibitors of America for another three picture, rounded immediately after the release of our first three reel, "Pillars of Society," a short time ago. The picture carries all the great dramatic qualities that made Ibsen's writings so powerful in play form, and you cannot go wrong if you rig up some special advertising display for this very fine feature. Simply the words "A Doll's House, by Ibsen," will do, outside the show, but print 'em in big letters with the name "Thanhouser" underneath as a guarantee of merit.

No. 230. Code Word, House.



THANHOUSER COMPANY
NEW ROCHELLE NEW YORK

"PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN" OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st

Cines Company of Rome

STUDIOS AND FACTORIES Rome and Padova

CAPITAL

PREFERRED STOCK - - - - - LIRE 2,000,000
ORDINARY STOCK - - - - - 3,750,000
FULLY PAID UP - - - - - LIRE 5,750,000

EXCHANGE MEN WRITE TO US FOR PARTICULARS OF OUR FIRST RELEASE
BRANCH FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
445 Broome St., Cor. Broadway, New York City
TELEPHONE: SPRING 888 TELEGRAPH: CINE NEW YORK

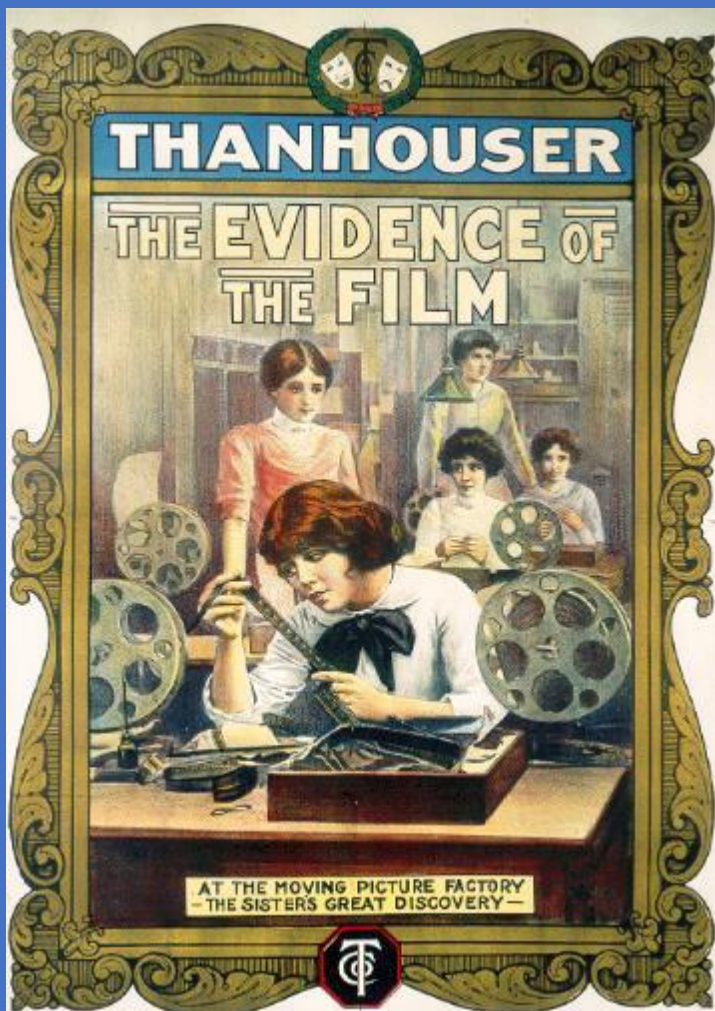
Location	Date	Reference	Media	Length	Comments
New Rochelle, New York	Released 7/28/1911	Thanhouser Company	35 mm nitrate print	1 reel	Based on the play by Henrik Ibsen
London, UK	1911	The Gaumont Co., Ltd	35 mm nitrate print	1 Reel	Thanhouser listed as British release title
Paris, France	~1995	Professor Hiroshi Komatsu	35 mm nitrate print (English intertitles)	1 reel	Purchased nitrate print in Paris flea market transport to Japan
Waseda University (Japan)	~2008	Professor Hiroshi Komatsu	35 mm nitrate print → 35 mm dupe negative → 16 mm print	1 reel	Nitrate print reduction print from dupe negative to 16 mm
Thanhouser Company (Portland)	2012	Ned Thanhouser	16 mm print → video transfer DVCam (SD)	14:45	Copy of 16 mm print courtesy Prof. Komatsu by Tokyo Ko-on
National Library of Norway	2017	Eirik Hanssen	DVCam video → Digital File Transfer	14:45	Screened at "Silent Ibsen" conference
Thanhouser Company (Portland)	2018 (?)	Ned Thanhouser	DVCam video → Future DVD	14:45	DVD to be released

Cinderella (1911) Extant Copies



Location	Date	Reference	Media	Length	Comments
New Rochelle, NY	Released 12/22/1911	Thanhouser Company	35 mm nitrate	900 feet	Based on Charles Perrault's fairy tale
JEF Films	7/27/87	Q. David Bowers	16 mm print	1 reel	Tarbox Collection
GEM (nee GEH)	??	FAIF	16 mm print	1 reel	Purchased from Film Classic Exchange
Edward Wagenknecht	8/13/87	Q. David Bowers	8 mm	1 reel	Home market release?
BFI	2/3/88	Q. David Bowers	35 mm nitrate tinted	849 feet	Safety negative duped from nitrate
LoC	1990	Paul Spehr	BFI 35 mm print → UMatric ¾"	14:30	Transfer to Thanhouser Company via LoC
UCLA	2/27/94	Charles Hopkins	16 mm print	1 reel	Status unknown
eBay	2009	Ned Thanhouser	8 mm print	1 reel	Blackhawk distribution
EYE	4/7/14	Elif Rongen	35 mm nitrate tinted print	902 feet	Dutch intertitles: Motion Picture Distributing and Sales
Danish Film Institute	10/20/14	Thomas Christensen	35 mm nitrate tinted print	853 feet	Danish intertitles
Thanhouser Company	1997 2004 2011 2014	VHS: Vol 1 DVD: Vol 1 Online (Vimeo) DVD: EYE #2	DVD (BFI) DVD (BFI) MP4 (BFI) DVD (EYE)	14:03 14:03 14:03 14:33	EYE and Online includes commentary by Judith Buchanan (Univ. of York)

The Evidence of the Film (1913)



Location	Date	Reference	Media	Length	Comments
New Rochelle, NY	Released 1/10/1913	Thanhouser Company	35 mm nitrate print	1 reel	Directed by Edwin Thanhouser and Lawrence Marston
Superior, Montana	March 1999	John Eickhof (NW Theatre Equipment Co.)	35 mm nitrate print	1 reel	Discovered on floor of projection booth Superior, Montana
Library of Congress	June 1999	George Willeman	35 mm nitrate print → 35 mm safety negative & print	1 reel	Preserved and projected at LoC Thanhouser Program
National Film Preservation Board	2001	Patrick Loughney	35 mm nitrate print	1 reel	Added to National Film Registry
Thanhouser Company (Portland)	2001 (VHS) 2004 (DVD)	Ned Thanhouser	SD Transfer from LoC → VHS & DVD	14:30	Released on VHS & DVD
Thanhouser Company (Portland)	2011	Ned Thanhouser	SD Transfer → Online (MP4)	14:30	vimeo.com/20262650

Reclaiming Thanhouser

Modern Usage and Viewership

- **Improved Access**

- ✓ 17 DVDs w/76 titles (Over 6,000 VHS & DVDs sold)
- ✓ Online access to 57 titles (> 59,000 views)
- ✓ More to come!

- **Academic Study**

- ✓ www.thanhouser.org: Extant Films and Bowers' Encyclopedia
- ✓ www.thanhouser.org/research.htm: 30+ Papers Published, including:
 - Women Film Pioneers Project (WFPP): *Gertrude Homan Thanhouser: Her Story in Film*, Profile on Florence LaBadie, and Thanhouser Family Overview Essay
 - The Moving Image (AMIA): *Reconstructing Thanhouser: The Twenty-Five Journey of a Citizen Archivist*
 - Society for Cinema and Media (SCMS): Profiles of Lloyd Lonergan and Edwin Thanhouser
 - Charlie Keil: *Narration and Authorship in the Transitional Text: Griffith, Thanhouser, and Typicality*
 - Graduate Student Histography Class Papers (Kathy Fuller)
- ✓ Academic Exhibitions (Notre Dame, University of Texas, Library of Congress, Portland State University, Pace University, etc.)

- **Theatrical Exhibition**

- ✓ Thanhouser Studio Documentary (TCM)
- ✓ Pordenone Silent Film Festival (Italy)
- ✓ Museum of Modern Art (NY)
- ✓ Hollywood Theatre (Portland)
- ✓ The Silent Movie Theatre (CA)

Thanhouser Film's Future?

Call to Action - It's Up To You!

- A Rich and (Re)Discovered Film History
- Available Online for Research and Study
 - Dozens of Films Available for Viewing
 - Representative of Studio Output
 - From the First Film to the Penultimate Release
 - <https://www.thanhouser.org>
 - Detailed Encyclopedia with Over 3,000 Entries
 - Narrative History 1865 to 1918
 - Filmography Entries for Every Film
 - Biographies on >1,000 Studio Employees
 - <https://www.thanhouser.org/tcocd>
 - Online Collection of Thanhouser Ephemera
 - In Cooperation with Iona College (New Rochelle)
 - Over 1,000 Artifacts and History
 - <https://www.iona.edu/thanhouser/>