

Addenda and Corrigenda

Since publication of *Cinema in Leicester* addition research has added to my knowledge of the earliest cinema performances in Leicester. I take this opportunity to correct a small number of errors which unfortunately crept in to the text and captions.

Page 2:-

In a misreading of John Barnes' *The Beginnings of Cinema in England*, I failed to pick up the fact that Fred Harvard's Cenematoscope was exhibited at The Tivoli Theatre of Varieties in Belgrave Gate from Monday June 15th to Saturday, June 27th 1896. The films shown included "Skirt dancers" and "Boxing Kangaroo" and these would appear to have been bought from either Birt Acres or Robert Paul. The origin of the machine is less certain, though a report in *The Era* of June 6th suggests that it came from France. The June 20th edition of *The Era* also reported that The New Empire Palace of Varieties in Wharf Street had booked Edison's Kinetographe for the approaching week. No more details of this showing have come to light so far.

Pages 15 and 16:-

The captions should read "September 2nd, 1901".

Page 30:-

It is now clear that Mr. Charles West's memory was at fault, and that he did not open his first cinema until Boxing Day, 1909. A brief report in *The Bioscope* of January 6th, 1909 reads:- "On Boxing Day, Mr. Charles West, late of the London Hippodrome, opened to the public his new picture hall in Cank Street, Leicester, which is to be run on the continuous system at small charges. His machine, which is a Walturdaw, throws beautiful films, and his operating box is of the latest and most approved pattern. His enterprise will, no doubt, be well rewarded." Many questions remain unanswered. Why did he open only five days before the Cinematograph Act became law? Why did he not apply for a licence? How long did he continue to show films without one? By May, he was showing films at the Boulevard Skating Rink with a licence. (See page 39.)

Page 106:-

When Captain H. Worsley was called to re-join the army in April 1916, he was temporarily succeeded at the High Street Cinema by Mr. H. J. Crane. The German ownership problem was solved by the sale of the

whole of the cinema chain belonging to the London and Provincial Theatres Limited to Mr. T. Instone of London. Extensive alteration and re-decoration was carried out in August, 1916 and a new manager, Mr. Nicole from Cardiff, was appointed.

Page 114:-

Further investigation has revealed that the Temperance Hall was re-opened as the Cinema-de-Luxe on August 7th, 1916 under the directorship of Mr. T. Jackson, of the Wolverhampton, Walsall and District Cinemas Ltd. Watch Committee approval for the alterations had been given on April 4th, 1916. Both the *Kinematograph Weekly* and *The Bioscope* of August 10th, 1916 reported that the interior had been transformed. The solid form seating was replaced by “luxurious tip-ups”. There was room for 700 patrons in the stalls and 300 in the reconstructed balcony. The great organ was retained. An orchestra under the direction of Senor Santos, “a Spanish violinist of some note” was engaged. Two Powers No. 6 projectors were installed in the operating box. The new manager was to be Mr. George L. Harris who had previously been at the Imperial Picture House, Moseley Road, Birmingham for 2½ years and before that at the Casino, Blackpool. The inaugural programme included the five-part Fox production “The Plunderer”, “The Blindness of Love”, and both a Bill Merson and a Pimple comedy. The cinema was to run continuous hours from 2 p.m. until 10.30 p.m. and the prices of admission, including the new entertainment tax, were 6d, 9d, and 1/-. Exterior alterations were completed within a fortnight of the re-opening.

Page 198:-

The caption should read “A Kalee Indomitable fitted with a Western Electric sound system capable of playing sound-on film or sound-on disc.”

Page 215 :-

For ‘Horace Gilbert’ read “Harold Gilbert”.

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