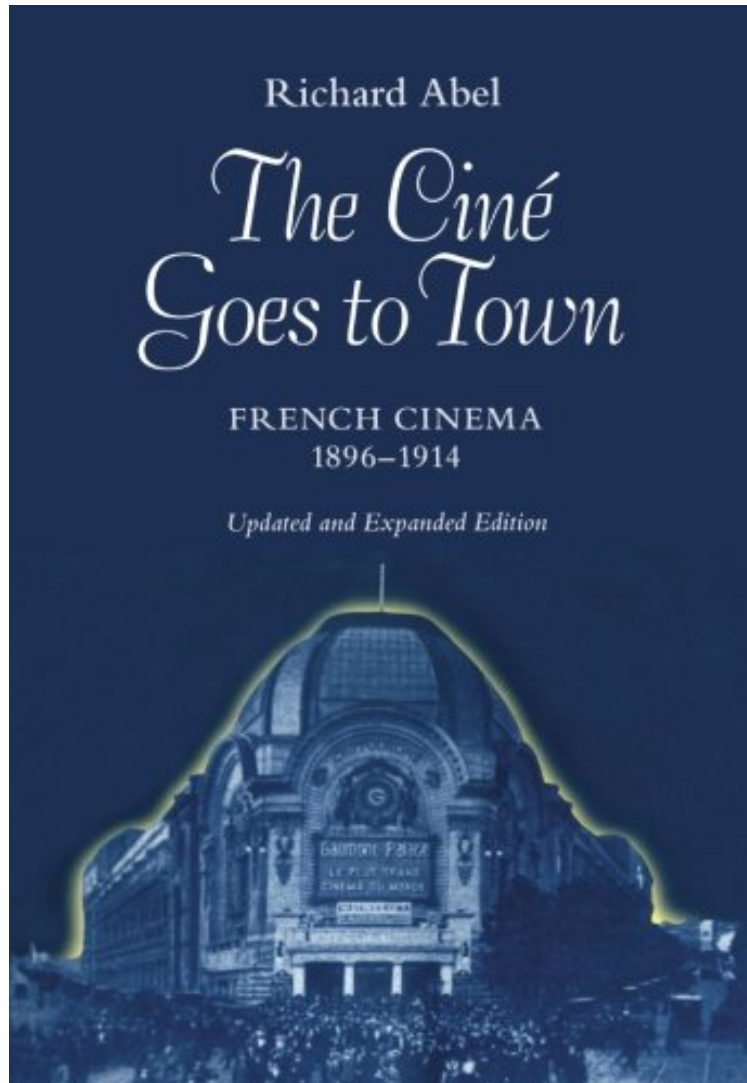


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# The Cin Goes to Town: French Cinema, 1896-1914, Updated and Expanded Edition

Richard Abel

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**Richard Abel : The Cin Goes to Town: French Cinema, 1896-1914, Updated and Expanded Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cin Goes to Town: French Cinema, 1896-1914, Updated and Expanded Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! By Robert T. Garcia The definitive reference for French silent films. The research is impeccible. The information is presented in a straight forward manner that anyone can use. Worth every penny. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By silvio alovisio Beautiful 0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. Film vous transporte un monde différentBy Bernie (xyzyzy)You cannot hide the fact that this is a text book and it is all the better for it. There are 130 illustrations (stills from the films being presented.) Lots of notes, long bibliography, Filmography, and index. 1. Turn-of-the-Century France 2. The French Cinema Industry, 1896-1914 3. The Cinema of Attractions, 1896-1904 4. The Transition to a narrative Cinema, 1904-1907 5. The Pre-Feature, Single-Reel Story Film, 1907-1911 6. The Rise of the Feature Film, 1911-1914 There is not one stuffy part in the book as Richard Abel is a great writer. I know he did some archival digging but I am amazed he found so much great information that make watching the films fun.

Richard Abel's magisterial new book radically rewrites the history of French cinema between 1896 and 1914, particularly during the years when Path-Freres, the first major corporation in the new industry, led the world in film production and distribution. Based on extensive investigation of rare archival films and documents, and drawing on recent social and cultural histories of turn-of-the-century France and the United States, his book provides new insights into the earliest history of the cinema. Abel tells how early French film entertainment changed from a cinema of attractions to the narrative format that Hollywood would so successfully exploit. He describes the popular genres of the era: comic chases, trick films and feries, historical and biblical stories, family melodramas and grand guignol tales, crime and detective films and shows the shift from short subjects to feature-length films. Cinema venues evolved along with the films as live music, color effects, and other new exhibiting techniques and practices drew larger and larger audiences. Abel explores the ways these early films mapped significant differences in French social life, helping to produce thoroughly bourgeois citizens for Third Republic France. *The Cin Goes to Town* recovers early French cinema's unique contribution to the development of the mass culture industry. As the one-hundredth anniversary of cinema approaches, this compelling demonstration of film's role in the formation of social and national identity will attract a wide audience of film scholars, social and cultural historians, and film enthusiasts.

"Just the sort of history text that should satisfy nearly everyone. [Abel] relies on original archival archaeology and connects that inquiry to shifts in early French film style and culture, all the while keeping an eye on the theoretical implications of his own historiography. . . . The attention to detail, the importance of the scholarship, and the excellent production quality are evident at every level. . . . Abel not only worked hard in the archives, he also worked at writing a lively, teachable history that allows us to marvel at all these wonderful movies. . . . Abel's history is a great success."--Richard Neupert, "Film Quarterly"  
"From the Inside Flap" Richard Abel reaffirms his position as the leading American historian of French cinema. . . . Along with precious historical commentary, he provides us with an invaluable reference book." Alan Williams, author of *Republic of Images*