

Gender and class in the amateur

FILM COLLECTION of WESSEX FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE

THIS STUDY ASKS:

What is the demographic (and especially, gendered) composition of the region's known amateur populace?

What impact did the socio-economic status of amateur filmmakers have on production?

How did the work of individuals contribute to the construction of a regional collective identity?



1920-1950 . 38K IN COLLECTION . 12K CINEFILMS . 50 CASE STUDIES

The collection comprises

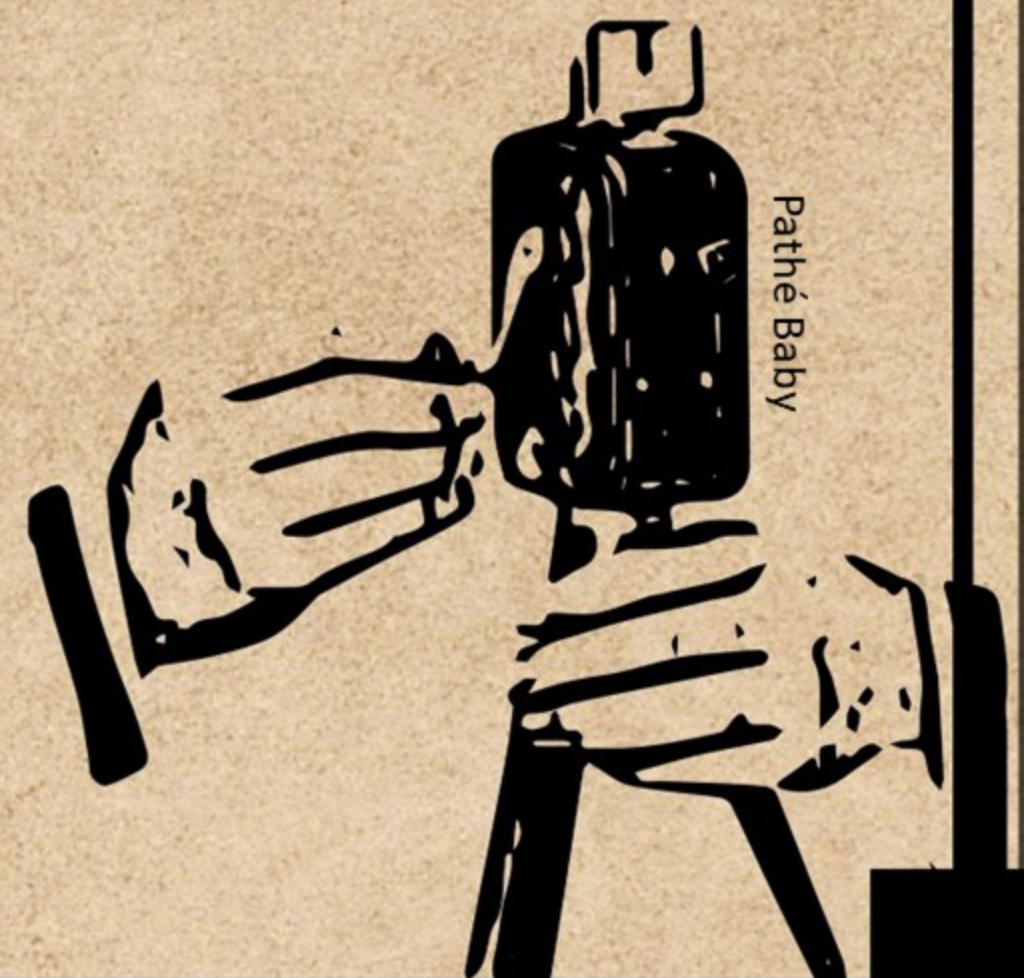
8859 16MM FILM REELS

and a range of other amateur
gauges including

521 9.5mm reels

1571 8mm reels

The Cine Kodak 16mm camera and the Pathe Baby 9.5mm were the first 'amateur' gauge cameras to the market in 1923/4. The development of amateur cinematography sits against a backdrop of debate around how we define 'amateur'.



AN ARCHIVE BASED STUDY

Methodology

COLLECTION SURVEY

through watching film, interviewing
filmmakers and depositors,

CONDUCTING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

SURVEY WILL PROVIDE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FOR

Women
amateurs
in
the
region

Amateur
filmmaking
as vehicle for
social mobility



Suggestive findings

9.5mm equipment was cheaper and therefore more accessible than 16mm. This afforded greater participation from lower income individuals.

Female amateurs are more active than popular assumptions acknowledge (in cine clubs and as part of filmmaking couples). Challenging the male, white middle-class visage.

Cine-Kodak

