

Interest in Hollywood and its many aspects is being kept alive in a number of new books reviewed in this column.

Published by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the **1986 Annual Index of Motion Picture Credits** provides a fully cross-referenced production personnel roster of 357 U.S. and foreign features qualifying for Academy Awards. Included is a 1976-1986 cumulative list of film titles. Meticulously edited by Byerly Woodward, it is an authoritative record, invaluable for scholarly research (*AMPAS, Beverly Hills, CA, \$80, \$60 to subscribers*).

A comprehensive history of the Academy Awards compiled by Mason Wiley and Damien Bona, **Inside Oscar** offers a lively rundown of this highly coveted honor. All categories are covered, year-by-year, with running commentaries that provide both factual information and pertinent gossip (*Ballantine, NYC, \$24.95*).

A fascinating look at turn-of-the-century American cinema, **Before Hollywood** describes 69 assorted silent movies selected by curator Charles Musser and film scholar Jay Leyda as part of

a traveling exhibition. Edited by John L. Fell and colleagues, this attractively illustrated book highlights the inventiveness and spirit of a nascent art (*Hudson Hills Press/American Federation of Arts, NYC; Rizzoli, distr., NYC; \$35*).

Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, Lillian Gish and Clara Bow are some of the performers whose lives and films are discussed by Edward Wagenknecht in **Stars of the Silents**. The book captures the mood of a growing industry, the development of filmmaking and storytelling techniques, and the early social impact of Hollywood's spreading popularity (*Scarecrow, Metuchen, NJ, \$20*).

In **The Great Gangster Pictures II**, James Robert Parish and Michael R. Pitts catalogue some 400 features released since 1976. Detailed entries include credits and synopses, and offer a knowledgeable historic perspective on the gangster theme in serials and foreign movies (*Scarecrow, Metuchen, NJ, \$37.50*).

An informative and entertaining study, **Hollywood Goes to War** probes the politics, profits and propaganda that affected WWII and post-war movies. Authors Clayton R. Koppes and Gregory D.

Black display considerable research as they track Washington pressure to coordinate film story-lines with government positions (*Free Press/Macmillan, NYC, \$22.50*).

A father-daughter collaboration between writer Julian More and photographer Carey More has produced a provocative volume, **Views from the Hollywood Hills**, evoking in superb stills and incisive text the startling combination of glamour, banality and sleaze of the L.A. scene today (*Holt, NYC, \$19.95*).

Part humor, part fantasy and all corn, **Hollywood Off Guard** affords author Robert L. Oshman the occasion to fraternize vicariously with popular film industry personalities (*Hippocrene, NYC, \$11.95*).

George L. George •

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