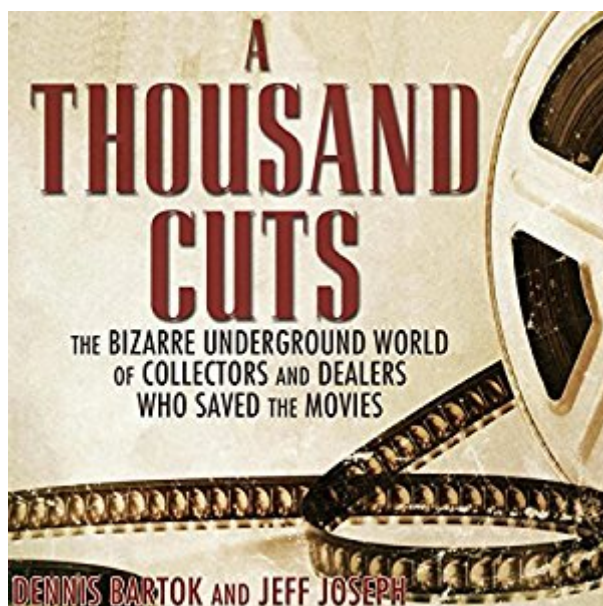


The book was found

A Thousand Cuts: The Bizarre Underground World Of Collectors And Dealers Who Saved The Movies



Synopsis

A Thousand Cuts is a candid exploration of one of America's strangest and most quickly vanishing subcultures. It is about the death of physical film in the digital era and about a paranoid, secretive, eccentric, and sometimes obsessive group of film-mad collectors who made movies and their projection a private religion in the time before DVDs and Blu-rays. The book includes the stories of film historian/critic Leonard Maltin, TCM host Robert Osborne discussing Rock Hudson's secret 1970s film vault, RoboCop producer Jon Davison dropping acid and screening King Kong with Jefferson Airplane at the Fillmore East, and Academy Award-winning film historian Kevin Brownlow recounting his decades-long quest to restore the 1927 Napoleon. Authors Dennis Bartok and Jeff Joseph examine the FBI's and Justice Department's campaign to harass, intimidate, and arrest film dealers and collectors in the early 1970s. Many of those persecuted were gay men. Victims included Planet of the Apes star Roddy McDowall, who was arrested in 1974 for film collecting and forced to name names of fellow collectors, including Rock Hudson and Mel Tormé. A Thousand Cuts explores the obsessions of the colorful individuals who created their own screening rooms, spent vast sums, negotiated underground networks, and even risked legal jeopardy to pursue their passion for real, physical film. The book is published by University Press of Mississippi.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful insight into the 20th Century secretive world of film collectors and film collecting and the

sad era of government persecution (1970's) when copyright was deemed as sufficient cause for individual citizens to not own a private library or personal collection of feature films. Today the 'first sale' provision of the US Copyright Act has rendered the prosecution obsolete, but it is still appalling that such a dark era in American film history ever happened at all and that so many in the film collecting hobby were prosecuted, some even serving jail time, as the book recounts, for making private home ownership of movies possible. the book is a fascinating read and throughout-provoking as it chronicles individuals in the secretive niche film collecting hobby.

"A Thousand Cuts.." is a bracing and invigorating read. Dennis Bartok and Jeff Joseph not only expose a little known part of Film history, but also infect the reader with an increasing respect and admiration for those individuals that took to this hobby of film collecting solely for their own enjoyment and evolved into a passion for preserving an artifact that is becoming more and more obsolete. That these "collectors" managed to save such diverse films as "The Stewardesses" (in 3D) and the original stereo tracks to "Rebel Without a Cause", "A THOUSAND CUTS.." is an honest and occasionally heartbreaking tale of many individuals who simply loved the movies.

If you have even a passing interest in film history or the lives of a collector this is the book for you. I love both so found it very interesting. The interviews they got throughout the book are very revealing and interesting reads. Good stuff

What great stories about a wild range of people who, quirky as some may be, have preserved films that would have been lost. But what adventures they have taken in the process! Especially enjoyable for anyone who loves movies or is a collector of anything...not just film related.

Reminded me of many people I have met.

If you have any 'reel,' connection to the movies, this book is about as accurate of a truth as it gets. A personal, professional and complete telling of an absurd passion that exists for some because of the movies. Read it.

A thousand Cuts - the bizarre underground world of collectors and dealers who saved the movies. Dennis Bartok and Jeff Joseph's book is an excellent read. Hard to put down, I almost read the whole book in 1 day. Awesoma

I was there - I lived through this. I collected 16mm television shows and was luckily spared from the feds and what my fellow film collectors went through since it was all about owning prints of feature films at the time, but it's all here in amazing detail...and it's all true. It seems silly today what with thousands of DVDs and Blu Rays of movies in homes around the world that it was actually against the law to simply possess film prints in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. Furious studios, power-hungry government agents, and a nasty SOB in charge of the MPAA did their best to scare the hell out of and prosecute paranoid people who simply wanted a different form of entertainment in their homes to enjoy. Most not only were not jailed but they also eventually got their prints back! That's not to say there were not the "pirates" - those who did dupe their prints and sell the copies at profit, but the ratio between those folks and the ones who simply wanted to own a piece of Hollywood for their own personal enjoyment was very low. Former film collectors and those who find the whole hobby and its history simply fascinating will thoroughly enjoy this book.

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