

THE WORLD IN 1900



A Tour Around the World at the End of the Nineteenth Century in Words, Music, and Motion Pictures

Presented by Frank Gray (South East Screen Archive) and Luke McKernan (British Universities Film & Video Council). Music by Neil Brand.

The World in 1900 presents a tour around the world in motion pictures at the end of the Nineteenth Century and the close of the Victorian Era. Presented as if it were a programme compiled in January 1901, at the time of Queen Victoria's death, *The World in 1900* takes us on a journey in films all dating from before the Queen's death: from the Queen's funeral, across the Channel into Europe, across the Mediterranean to Palestine and Egypt, then down to South Africa to the Anglo-Boer War, across the Indian Ocean to India, Singapore, and the Far East, crossing down to Australia, then back up to China in time for the Boxer Rebellion, over the Pacific to Canada, which we cross by rail, thence to the Edison studio at West Orange, next to New York City, then down to Cuba for the Spanish-American War, over the Atlantic to Ireland, then back to Britain to catch a flavour of the Modern Age to come.

The compilation is listed below by individual film titles, with producer, country, date and lengths per item. All films are silent and held on 35mm compilation reels. The total running time of the programme, with commentary, is approximately 80 minutes. All films come from the **BFI National Archive**.

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Britain

Beginning with Queen Victoria and family at Balmoral, we see troops setting off for the Boer War, see films at an Edinburgh theatre, then take the first of several train journeys to a view of Britain at the time, stopping off at the Empire, Leicester Square to see the Cinématographe before watching the Epsom Derby of 1895, then setting sail at Southampton.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN...AND ROYAL CHILDREN AT BALMORAL (Downey, GB 1896) ca. 60ft
GORDON HIGHLANDERS (Walker, GB 1899) ca. 50ft
EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (Edison, US 1895) ca. 30ft
DEWAR'S SCOTCH WHISKY (International, US 1897) ca. 30ft
IRISH MAIL L. & N. W. RAILWAY – TAKING UP WATER AT FULL SPEED (British Biograph, GB 1898) ca.100ft.
THAMES RIVER SCENE (Hepworth, GB 1899) 39ft.
PONT DE LA TOUR / TOWER BRIDGE (Lumière, F 1896) 48ft.
ENTRÉE DU CINÉMATOGRAPHE (Lumière, F 1896) ca.50ft.
QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE ([Unknown], 1897) 67ft.
WILL EVANS, THE MUSICAL ECCENTRIC (Warwick, GB 1899) 67ft.
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL SPORTS DAY (Charles Goodwin Norton, GB 1899) 131ft.
THE DERBY (Birt Acres/Robert Paul, GB 1895) 44ft.
GENERAL BULLER EMBARKING ON THE 'DUNOTTAR CASTLE' AT SOUTHAMPTON (Warwick, GB 1899) 49ft.
THE 'ROSLIN CASTLE' (TROOPSHIP) LEAVING FOR SOUTH AFRICA (Warwick, GB 1899) 76ft.

English Channel

We cross over to France with Georges Méliès as our captain.

ENTRE CALAIS ET DOUVRES (Star-Film, F 1897) 66ft.

France

In France we visit the Paris Exposition, then see dancer Loie Fuller and magician Georges Méliès perform, before seeing contrasting dramatised and actuality accounts of the trial of Alfred Dreyfus.

PANORAMA OF THE PARIS EXPOSITION NO. 3 (Hepworth, GB 1900) 49ft.

LOIE FULLER (Pathé, F 1900) 91ft.

DREYFUS RENCONTRE SA FEMME À RENNES (Star-Film, F 1899) ca.50ft.

MADAME DREYFUS LEAVING THE PRISON (French Biograph, F 1899) ?ft.

CAPTAIN ALFRED DREYFUS (French Biograph, F 1899) ?ft.

Portugal

Audiences in 1900 thrilled to scenes of water in motion, as in this celebrated scene of a cave near Lisbon.

A SEA CAVE NEAR LISBON (Paul's Animatograph, GB 1896) 10ft.

Spain

In Spain we visit a bullfight.

COURSES DE TAUREAUX I (Lumière, F 1897) ca.50ft.

France

A fine travelling shot shows us an American battleship at anchor in the Mediterranean as we return to France before heading north.

CUIRASSÉ AMÉRICAIN 'SAN FRANCISCO' EN RADE DE VILLEFRANCHE (Lumière, F 1897) ca.50ft.

Netherlands

We arrive in time for the coronation of the young Queen Wilhelmina, seen waving to us from her palace balcony.

CORONATION OF QUEEN WILHELMINA OF HOLLAND AT AMSTERDAM: THE QUEEN AND THE QUEEN MOTHER ON THE PALACE BALCONY RESPONDING (Dutch Biograph, 1898) ca.50ft.

Germany

Journeying up to Kiel, we see a spectacular demonstration of the might of the German navy.

BATTLESHIP 'ODIN' WITH ALL HER GUNS IN ACTION (British Biograph, GB 1900) 62ft.

COLOGNE: SORTIE DE LA CATHÉDRALE (Lumière, F 1896) 50ft.

Switzerland

In Switzerland we witness a procession during the 1896 Exposition at Geneva.

GENÈVE (EXPOSITION 1896): RENTRÉE À L'ÉTABLE (Lumière, F 1896)
ca.50ft.

Italy

Moving down to Italy, we sail down the Grand Canal, receive the Pope's blessing, then see comedian Fregoli impersonate the great Italian conductors, and take in a view of Naples.

THE GRAND CANAL, VENICE (British Biograph, GB 1898) 50ft.
POPE LEO XIII, IN HIS CHAIR, SURROUNDED BY SOME OF HIS
COURTIERS, WITH SWISS GUARD IN REAR (British Biograph, GB 1898)
ca.50ft.

MAESTRI DI MUSICA (Fregoligraph, I 1898) 56ft.

PANORAMA OF NAPLES ([Unknown], ca.1900) 54ft.

Mediterranean

Again we cross the sea with Georges Méliès, this time experiencing an action during the Greco-Turkish war.

COMBAT NAVAL EN GRÈCE (Star-Film, F 1897) 56ft.

Palestine

Having crossed the Mediterranean, we depart from Jerusalem by train.

DÉPART DE JÉRUSALEM EN CHEMIN DE FER (Lumière, F 1897) 50ft.

Egypt

In Egypt we see British troops fresh from fighting the Dervishes in the Battle of Omdurman.

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS' RETURN TO CAIRO AFTER THE FALL OF
OMDURMAN (Warwick, GB 1898) 57ft.

Indian Ocean

We cross the ocean courtesy of a view from a steamer.

CHURNED WATERS (Warwick, GB 1899) 48ft.

South Africa

Arriving at the Transvaal in time for the Boer War, we see President Kruger, members of the black population, and then contrasting views of the war – a dramatised account of British heroics, and then the reality of a British defeat.

TROOPS LEAVING PORT ELIZABETH JETTY (Warwick, GB 1900) 48ft.

PRESIDENT KRUGER (Warwick, GB 1898) 46ft.

THE DISPATCH BEARER (Mitchell & Kenyon, GB 1900) 72ft.

BATTLE OF SPION KOP (British Biograph, GB 1900) 37ft. + 45ft.

India

A panning shot along the Ganges introduces us to India.

PANORAMA OF CALCUTTA, INDIA, FROM THE RIVER GANGES
(Warwick, GB 1899) 76ft.

Singapore

We stop off in Singapore to witness coolie boys diving for coins in the harbour.

COOLIE BOYS DIVING FOR COINS (Warwick, GB 1900) 61ft.

Australia

Sailing south we come to the Torres Strait to see the results of A.C. Haddon's ethnographic expedition, and visit Melbourne for the races, before catching the cricket at Sydney.

TORRES STRAIT (A.C. Haddon, GB 1898) ca.50ft.

ARRIVÉE D'UN TRAIN À MELBOURNE (Lumière, F 1896) 49ft.

1897 MELBOURNE CUP ([Unknown], Australia 1897) 49ft.

PRINCE RANJITSINHJI PRACTISING BATTING IN THE NETS (Henry Walter Barnett, Australia 1897) 36ft.

China

In China a simple street scene is followed by two dramatised views of the Boxer Rebellion.

NANKIN ROAD, SHANGHAI (Warwick, GB 1901) 74ft.
BEHEADING A CHINESE BOXER (Mitchell & Kenyon?, GB 1900) 32ft.
ATTACK ON A CHINESE MISSION – BLUEJACKETS TO THE RESCUE
(Williamson, GB 1900) 110ft.

Pacific Ocean

We cross the ocean to Canada.

FEEDING THE SEAGULLS (British Biograph, GB 1899) 47ft.

Canada

Having crossed the Pacific, we cross Canada by train.

IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, NEAR BANFF (American Biograph, US 1899) 125ft.

GREAT OTTAWA FIRE (American Biograph, US 1900) 103ft.

United States

Having stopped off at Niagara Falls, we call in on the Edison "Black Maria" studio at West Orange, New Jersey, to see dancers and boxers, before crossing the Brooklyn Bridge into New York. In New York City we see black dancers from a revue, before seeing a dance at a juke joint in the American South.

AMERICAN FALLS, GOAT ISLAND (American Biograph, US 1896) 45ft.

THE LEONARD-CUSHING FIGHT (Edison, US 1894) 40ft.

GOING TO THE FIRE (Edison, US 1896) 44ft.

ACROSS BROOKLYN BRIDGE (American Biograph, US 1896) 265ft.

THE PICKANNINIES (Edison, US 1894) 40ft.

BLACK DANCE SCENE ([Unknown], US ca.1900) 45ft.

Mexico

Further south we see the famous Mexican hat dance.

'JARABE' DANCE, STREETS OF MEXICO, PAN AMERICAN EXPOSITION
(American Biograph, US 1901) 46ft.

Cuba

Down we go to Cuba to witness the sad sight of the wreck of the "Maine" in Havana harbour, whose sinking sparked off the Spanish-American War.

VISITE SOUS-MARINE DU MAINE (Star-Film, F 1898) 97ft.

Atlantic Ocean

Sports on board ship help while away the hours as we cross the Atlantic.

JACK'S GAME OF CRICKET ON BOARD H.M.S. GIBRALTAR (Warwick, GB 1900) 59ft.

Ireland

Arriving in Ireland we pass down the country by rail.

LIGNE DE BELFAST À KINGSTOWN I-III (Lumière, F 1897) ca.150ft.

Britain

Back in Britain we see the some of the sights of the new world – scientific discovery, motor cars, independent women, and motion pictures – before our journey ends, and we arrive at Victoria's funeral once more.

A KISS IN THE TUNNEL (G.A. Smith, GB 1899) 75ft.

A RAILWAY COLLISION (Paul's Animatograph, GB 1900) 48ft.

HOW IT FEELS TO BE RUN OVER (Hepworth, GB 1900) 50ft.

LADY CYCLISTS (Williamson, GB 1899) ca.50ft.

THE BIG SWALLOW (Williamson, GB 1901) 58ft.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC ON THE L.N.W.R. (Charles Goodwin Norton, GB 1897) 110ft.

FUNERAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA (Hepworth, GB 1901) 146ft.