1. Documentarist as. . . PROPHET

Definition(s):
Documentary = moving images that document some real phenomenon or action
Prophet = early practitioner of documentary filmmaking (unusual among Barnouw’s documentarist types, in that it does not seem applicable to later practitioners)

Key Concepts & Issues:
Institutionalization—“court photographers,” both official and unofficial (e.g., Kaiser Wilhelm’s visit to London)
Fakery—from the very beginning of film, so-called documentary footage has often been fabricated either wholly or in part (e.g., Albert E. Smith & J. Stuart Blackton mixing fake footage with genuine in depiction of Teddy Roosevelt’s San Juan Hill charge; e.g., Melies’ 1902 “reconstitution” footage of coronation of Edward VII, shot in Paris, mixed with genuine shots)
Narrative film advances as stifling the progress of documentaries—re editing, mostly
Newsreel—the newsreel is the legitimate offspring of early actualities
Archives—an early call for a depository of documenting footage by Boleslaw Matuszewski in 1898

Key Documentarists:
1. Scientists:
Pierre Jules Cesar Janssen—documenting Venus/sun eclipse in 1874
Eadweard Muybridge & Etienne Jules Marey—documenting slivers of time, freezing motion with their series photography and photo gun, respectively. . . cross-sections of motion in time
Georges Demeny—Marey’s assistant who proceeded to photograph mouths in CU for lip reading training

2. Businessmen:
Thomas Edison—Developed a heavy, fairly immobile camera that frequently shot in the Black Maria studio; “items of the world” were brought before the camera (e.g., strong men, dancers, boxers, vaudevillians); films were viewed by individuals via the kinetoscope beginning in 1894
Louis Lumiere—Developed a very light, portable camera/projector/printer apparatus, the cinematographe, that traveled the world beginning in 1895; by 1897, there were about 100 Lumiere operators filming and exhibiting mixed travelogue programs around the world; at the end of 1897, the Lumiere brothers ceased their “world demonstration tours” and concentrated on selling cinematographes