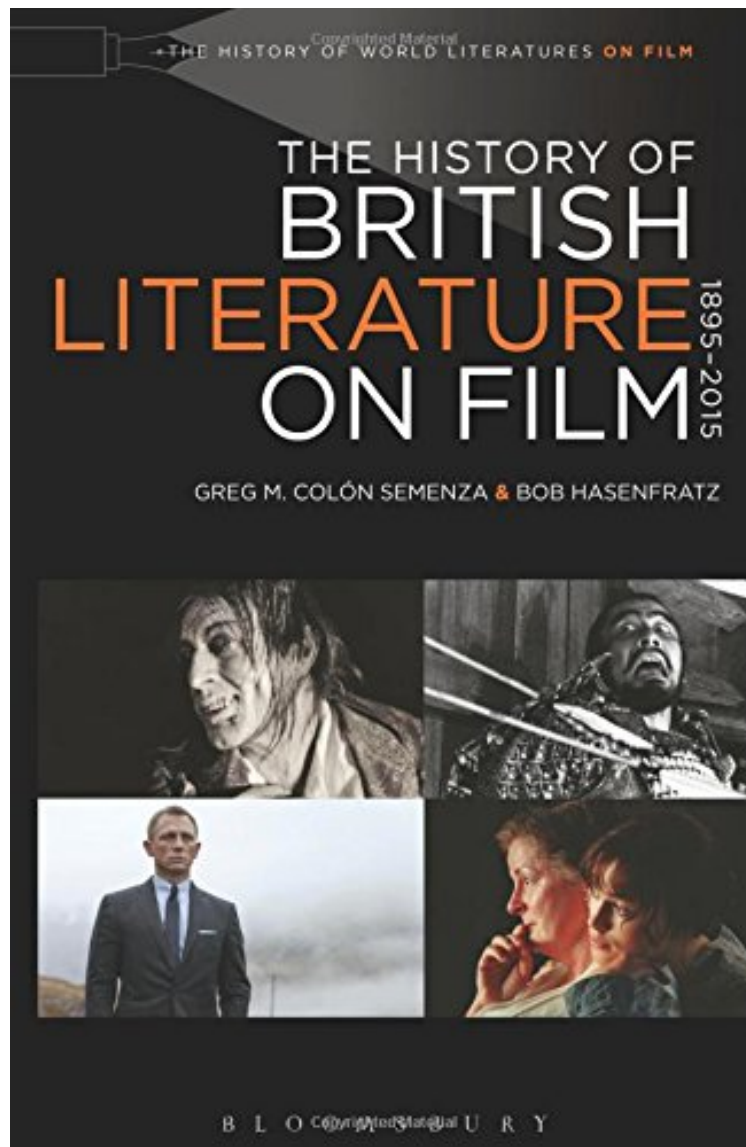


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The History of British Literature on Film, 1895-2015 (The History of World Literatures on Film)

Greg M. Coln Semenza, Bob Hasenfratz
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praised *The History of British Literature on Film, 1895-2015 (The History of World Literatures on Film)*:

From *The Death of Nancy Sykes* (1897) to *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* (2014) and beyond, cinematic adaptations of British literature participate in a complex and fascinating history. *The History of British Literature on Film, 1895-2015* is the only comprehensive narration of cinema's 100-year-old love affair with British literature. Unlike previous studies of literature and film, which tend to privilege particular authors such as Shakespeare and Jane Austen, or particular texts such as *Frankenstein*, or particular literary periods such as Medieval, this volume considers the multiple functions of filmed British literature as a cinematic subject in its own right—one reflecting the specific political and aesthetic priorities of different national and historical cinemas. In what ways has the British literary canon authorized and influenced the history and aesthetics of film, and in what ways has filmed British literature both affirmed and challenged the very idea of literary canonicity? Seeking to answer these and other key questions, this indispensable study shows how these adaptations emerged from and continue to shape the social, artistic, and commercial aspects of film history.

This rich analysis will appeal to Anglophile literature and film buffs alike. Library Journal As adaptation studies proliferate and grow more rigorous into the twenty-first century, what has been lacking is the broad cultural and historical range that this fine book maps, providing a crucial perspective on the long evolution of adaptation in Britain. Timothy Corrigan, Professor of English, Cinema Studies, and History of Art, University of Pennsylvania, USA, author of *The Essay Film: From Montaigne, After Marker*, and editor of *Film and Literature: An Introduction and Reader* Semenza and Hasenfratz (both, English, Univ. of Connecticut) present a comprehensive survey of the adaptation of British literature to film from the beginning of film in 1895 to the present. They look at the seeming inevitability of the marriage between British literature and movies and then consider the sustainability of the pairing over the decades. In doing this, the authors pave the way for using cinematic representations to get a better understanding of cultural history and identity. The authors also look at the impact of non-British filmmakers on these representations. In addition, the text explores four issues central to adaptation: fidelity to the original text; mutation, or how works grow and change through the adaptation process; genre, i.e., whether Brit-lit adaptations can be classified as a unique genre; and innovation, i.e., whether adapted works represent "progressive+" or "conservative+" modes of interpretation. Clearly and concisely written and including myriad illustrations and examples to help readers better contextualize and visualize the subject, this brilliant analysis of British literature on film is a valuable resource for both film and cultural studies. Summing Up: Essential. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty. CHOICE About the Author Greg M. Coln Semenza is Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, USA. His books include *How to Build a Life in the Humanities* (2015), *The English Renaissance in Popular Culture* (2010), *Graduate Study for the 21st Century: How to Build an Academic Career in the Humanities* (2005; 2nd ed. 2010), *Milton in Popular Culture* (2006), and *Sport, Politics, and Literature in the English Renaissance* (2004). He has published numerous essays on film and adaptation and is now working on a book about Powell and Pressburger's wartime films. Bob Hasenfratz is Professor of English and Department Head at the University of Connecticut, USA. His books include *Reading Old English* (2005/11), *Ancrene Wisse* (2001), and *Beowulf Scholarship: An Annotated Bibliography 1979-1990* (1993). He has written articles on medieval literature and culture and edits the *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*.