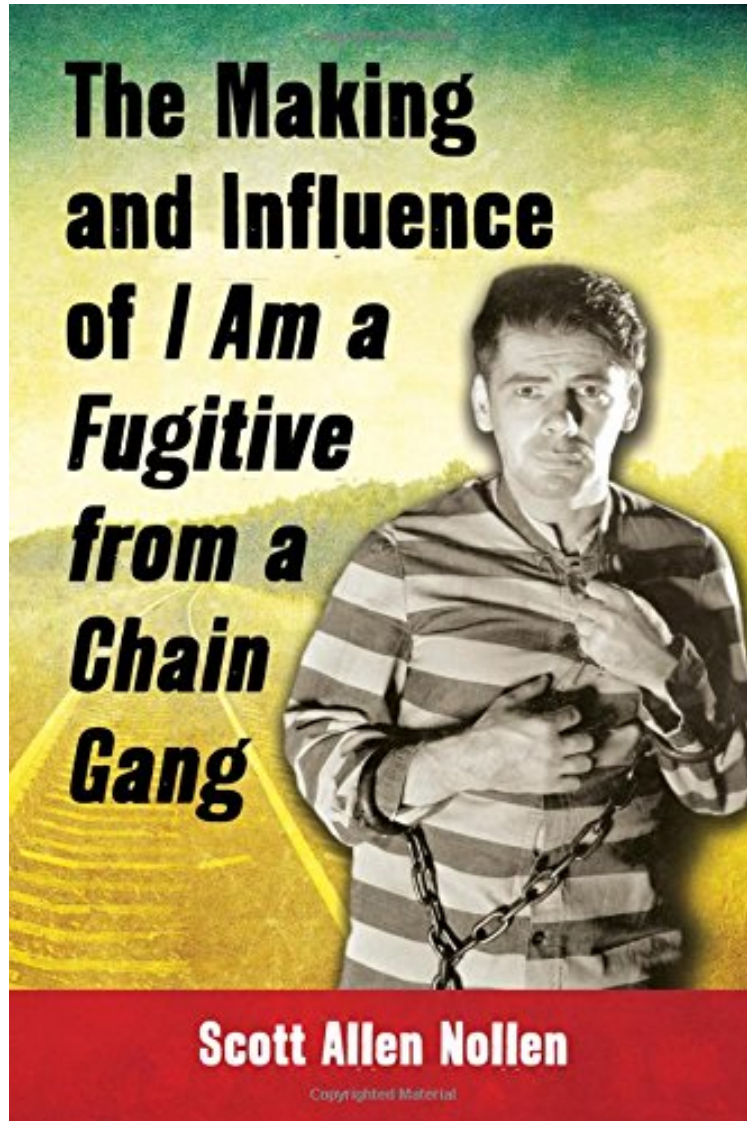


(Free pdf) The Making and Influence of I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang

## The Making and Influence of I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang

Scott Allen Nollen

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**Scott Allen Nollen : The Making and Influence of I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making and Influence of I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. interesting look into the influential book and filmBy Mark M SeegerSometimes in his review he seems to be one-sided . . . and he leans on sources . . . and it seems some of this should have been included in Robert Burns' book, but there was more revealed between 1932 and 1942 . . . good photos . . . the making itself is not very emphasized in my opinion. I like to love it though overall. I may read it again.3

of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent study of an important film  
By James L. Neibaur  
The 1932 Warner Brothers feature *I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang* was a courageous, insightful screen drama featuring Paul Muni in the descriptive title role. It was based on a book by Robert Burns, who actually escaped a chain gang and was able to create a new life as a fugitive. Author Scott Allen Nollens book had been in the planning stage for decades, and over several other books the writer released on subjects as diverse as Laurel and Hardy and John Ford. This book can be called the fine authors masterpiece, as it gives amazing and fascinating details about the real Robert Burns life and exploits, the book he wrote, and the cinematic response. The development of the film, its planning, the grueling filmmaking process, and its ultimate impact are all discussed in full, complete detail. There are new revelations on every page.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A terrific, nearly forensic-level account that often reads like a novel  
By Annie S.  
This is not only a comprehensive account of the making and eight-decades-plus influence of this landmark and still powerful film, but a nearly forensic-level account of the horrific true story of the real "fugitive," Robert E. Burns, a World War I veteran who, after returning from the brutal conflict, found himself jobless, homeless and coerced into joining in a petty crime that earned him six- to ten years on a Georgia chain gang that still practiced remnants of the system of slavery that supposedly ended after the Civil War. First, the author presents an account of the actual events, then an account of the 1931 memoir ghost-written by Burns' brother, the Reverend Vincent G. Burns, who sacrificed his own happiness and safety in a tireless, decades-long effort to help his brother obtain a pardon. (You'll need to read the book to learn the details, which I won't spoil here.) This is not only a well-illustrated (with photos from the 1932 original film and many, many of its imitators and attempted "successors," including films such as "Cool Hand Luke" [1965] and "Papillon" [1973]) book about a film, but also a recounting of one of the greatest miscarriages of justice of the era that is well-represented in the 1932 film (on which Robert E. Burns, worked as an adviser while "hiding out" at Warner Bros., risking his own neck--not to mention the filmmakers at the studio, including Darryl F. Zanuck and Mervyn LeRoy), which includes an incredibly unforgettable ending, and one that was quite a shock during that "Pre-Code" era in Hollywood. The film features standout performances by stars Paul Muni and Glenda Farrell, as well as fine contributions from such top character actors as Allen Jenkins, Edward Ellis and Preston Foster. Plus, the author's account really loves along, and reads like a novel, then necessarily shifts into the more non-fiction style necessary for much of the remainder of the book, still remarkably intertwined with the continuing true story of the Burns brothers as they continued to attempt to right the injustice committed against Robert up through the 1940s. Highly recommended for fans of great movies, especially those based on true stories, powerful acting, and anyone who cares about what happens to their fellow brothers and sisters in this world. This author has written two-dozen books over the past 30 years, and this is one of his finest, one that took him over three decades to finally see in print. Five stars.

Robert E. Burns, a World War I veteran coerced into taking part in a petty crime in Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced to hard labor on a chain gang in 1922. Twice escaping and on the lam for decades, he was aided only by his minister-poet brother, Vincent G. Burns. Their collaborative work, *I Am a Fugitive from a Georgia Chain Gang!* was the basis for Darryl F. Zanuck's and Mervyn Leroy's hard-hitting 1932 film adaptation from Warner Bros. This book traces the making and influence of the film--which launched a string of imitators--and the Burns brothers' efforts to obtain a pardon for Robert, which never came.

"an in-depth look at the memoir this 1932 masterpiece was based on as well as its author, Robert E. Burns"--Acting Solo.  
About the Author  
Scott Allen Nollen was educated in film and history at the University of Iowa. He has written and edited more than 40 books on the history of film, literature and music.