

Housing Problems (1935)

<https://vimeo.com/67797911>

Dirección: Arthur Elton y Edgar Anstey

Duración: 17 mins.

Producción: Arthur Elton, E.H. Anstey

Compañía Productora: British Commercial Gas Association

Fotografía: John Taylor

El film explora el movimiento de familias desde tugurios urbanos a viviendas sociales consolidadas, y constituye una de las cintas claves del género documental de todos los tiempos, ya que fue la primera en mostrar a personas hablando directamente a la cámara acerca de sus problemas cotidianos. A través de dichos relatos, los directores construyen un argumento de denuncia y a la vez de esperanza, muy acorde al espíritu británico moderno del entre-guerras.

“Housing problems” | London, 1935 | Production Arthur Elton, E.H. Anstey, for the B.C.G.A.

Photography John Taylor, Recording York Scarlett |15 minutes, b/n, sound

“Made by Arthur Elton and Edgard Anstey in 1935 for the British Commercial Gas Association. Housing Problems was produced to draw attention to the state housing programmes. According to Erik Barnouw, the author of Documentary. A history of non-fiction film (1993), it was Grierson, one of the more renowned English documentary makers, who convinced the gas company of the importance of making the film: ‘...the demolition of derelict slums and their replacement by government-financing housing – a key demand of the socialist Labour party – would inevitably bring modernization and increased use of gas. Thus the company financed a film of blunt and moving protest’

by L. Ciacci, ‘Movies’ Column, Planum. The Journal of Urbanism planum.net