

Guidelines for EMOL Video Reviews

In Sections 1 and 2, please complete any missing information wherever possible and correct any mistakes. Section 3 is for your review text: guidelines on what to write about are given.

SECTION 1: Reviewer's details.

Last name: Brennan	First name: Angela	Title: Mrs
Job title: HEA Project Assistant		
Department: HCA	Institution: University of Manchester	
Address: 12 Raleigh Street, Stretford, Manchester		
		Postcode: M32 8LJ
e-mail address: angela.brennan-2@manchester.ac.uk		
Telephone no.: 07947 470187	Fax no.: 0161 274 3346	

Your name, department and institution will be displayed with your review.
EMOL will store your contact details for contact with regards to the video review.

SECTION 2: About the video

Title	Enchanted Isles
Country	Scotland
Duration (mins)	16 minutes 20 seconds
Is this a clip or segment of a film? Or part of a collection? If so, give details.	Part of the Films of Scotland series
Year	1957
Description	A narrated trip through some of the islands of Western Scotland
Subject classification	History, Geography, Social History
Educational level of intended audience	Primary, Secondary, Undergraduate
Still photograph (where available)	n/a

Please provide a single sentence summary of your opinion of the video:

An romanticised journey through some of Scotland's islands.

SECTION 3: Review text

Audience and Use

This film does not deal with any one issue in any depth; it mentions local history, wildlife, industry and society but without going in to detail. It may be of interest to primary or secondary school pupils who are interested in the changing face of these islands. This programme may be of interest to undergraduates in Social History or Film Studies as it provides a snapshot of Island society as well as providing some insight into the genre of documentary making at this particular period in time.

Content

The programme takes the viewer on a journey from Oban to the Western Isles of Scotland, tracing some of the journey undertaken by Bonnie Prince Charlie. The programme goes via Iona, Seil Island, Staffa, Mull, Tiree, Barra, South Uist, Benbecula, Harris and Skye and provides snippets of information about each island. We learn about the historical figures that have visited this part of Scotland and the wildlife that thrives here. The film concentrates on presenting pleasant sunsets rather than documenting the actual geography of the islands, but this may interest anyone studying cinematography. Some islands only merit a casual mention, while others have more detailed descriptions.

The programme is narrated in very romanticised and poetic narration and comes across as being more like a tourist information film, trying to encourage visitors, rather than a historical document of the ways of these islands. The film does provide some interesting historical information about a way of life that has been lost, but only in a very brief fashion – choosing to cover a wide range of topics rather than focus in on just a few.

Technical issues

The film was very easy to download, but the picture and sound quality varies. The film flicks from black and white to colour and the soundtrack is muffled in many places. This programme is nearly 50 years old so some picture and sound deterioration should be expected. The film can be downloaded in 2 sections which would be useful if you wished to look at a specific island.

General comments

This particular programme would be of use to any teacher wishing to explore local or social history or anyone interested in looking at the development of the documentary as a teaching medium. This programme could be used to contrast the visual technology available to today's documentary makers. It could be used in conjunction with other EMOL resources (i.e. *St Kilda: the Lonely Isles* or *Life in the Orkneys*) to present a more thorough look at life on the islands of Scotland.