The Careers of Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas as Referenced in Literature

A Study in Film Perception

Henryk Hoffmann

Series in Cinema and Culture



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To the youngest members of the family—

Zuzanna Maria, Ella Louise,

Tymon Oskar and Graham Joseph—

with utmost admiration, unconditional love, great expectations and best wishes

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Introduction

My own instincts led me to **Kirk Douglas** and **Burt Lancaster**. These were the American pyramids and they needed no underground to spread their fame. They were monumental. Their faces slashed across the screen. When they laughed or cried it was without restraint. Their chromium smiles were never ambiguous. And they rarely had time to sit down and trade cynical quips with some classy society dame or dumb flatfoot. They were men of action, running, leaping, loving with abandon [p. 14].

Don DeLillo, Americana (1971)

In the history of the cinema, there have been several successful and memorable teams of comedians, such as Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy, the Marx Brothers, Abbott & Costello, Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope were a team only in a certain stage of their careers, when together they made a number of movies, all (except the last one) co-starring Dorothy Lamour, known as the *Road to* ... series. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau were never labeled as a team, but they had superb onscreen chemistry and co-starred in as many as eleven pictures. Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin co-starred in six movies (cameo appearances excluded), ranging from a James Jones adaptation (*Some Came Running*) to crime, western and romantic comedies. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are obviously the most successful male-female team or love duet; between 1933 and 1949, they appeared together in ten musical pictures, mostly comedies.

For some unknown reason, we do not usually talk about acting teams in the serious film, commonly referred to as "drama." Nevertheless, certain actors share film credits with others on a more-or-less regular basis, and, consequently, some couples of names remain in the audiences' minds as frequent collaborators. It is especially true in regard to the male-female partnerships, with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn (co-starring in both comedies and dramas) setting a definite record of nine pictures. But there have been other famous screen couples co-starring, at least four times, in either comedies, dramas or both: William Powell and Myrna Loy, Clark Gable and Joan Crawford, Gary Cooper and Fay Wray, Clark Gable and Myrna Loy, Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland, Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis and George Brent, Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, Walter Pidgeon

and Greer Garson, Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, Gene Kelly and Judy Garland, John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, and so on.

In the unique case of Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas, not only did they act together in a significant number of films—seven (co-starring in six)—but their lives and careers have a number of striking parallels. Born in New York (one in NYC and one in New York State) three years apart from each other, they both served in World War II—Lancaster with Special Services and Douglas in the Navy—and both started their film careers almost immediately after the war and stayed professionally active as long as their health and physical fitness allowed them to perform in front of the camera. They both gave a strong performance in a film noir at the beginning of their careers and both made a few major examples of the genre by the end of the 1940s. In the early 1950s, in 1951 to be exact, they both were introduced to a new genre, the western, which they ended up loving and made a considerable number of throughout their careers (over a dozen, co-starring in one), including a few milestones.

Besides playing gangsters, cops and cowboys, both Lancaster and Douglas have been memorably cast as soldiers (non-commissioned officers and officers, both in war and peacetime), men of the press, boxers, inmates, acrobats, pirates and, towards the end of their careers, honorable patriarchsa long list of similar parts testifying to the actors' more-or-less (depending on the period) overlapping personae, some essential differences in their screen personalities and images (the concepts defined further in the Introduction) notwithstanding. Consequently, when cast in the same film as characters not staying on the same side (good or bad) of the conflict, but as enemies or opposites (one being generally good and one evil), alternating the good and evil parts in different movies, they could theoretically switch parts without compromising the plausibility of the story. This statement can be supported by the fact that Douglas ended up playing Senator William J. Tadlock in Andrew V. McLaglen's The Way West (1967), the role that Lancaster had intended to play over ten years earlier and even acquired the screen rights of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by A. B. Guthrie, Jr. The eagerness and easiness with which Frank Gorshin personified both Lancaster and Douglas also testifies to the actors' multi-level affinity.

In addition to the directors with whom they worked exclusively on the same projects—Byron Haskin (*I Walk Alone*), Guy Hamilton (*The Devil's Disciple*), Marvin J. Chomsky (*Victory at Entebbe*) and Jeff Kanew (*Tough Guys*)—the two actors shared the experience of collaborating with Jacques Tourneur (*Out of the Past*—Douglas; *The Flame and the Arrow*—Lancaster), Anatole Litvak (*The Strange Love of Martha Ivers*—D; *Sorry, Wrong Number*—L), Michael Curtiz (*Young Man with a Horn*—D; *Jim Thorpe, All-American*—L), John Sturges

(Gunfight at the O.K. Corral—both; Last Train from Gun Hill—D; The Hallelujah Trail—L), John Huston (The Unforgiven—L; The List of Adrian Messenger—both), John Frankenheimer (The Young Savages, Birdman of Alcatraz, The Train, The Gypsy Moths—L; Seven Days in May—both), Robert Aldrich (Apache, Vera Cruz, Ulzana's Raid, Twilight's Last Gleaming—L; The Last Sunset—D), George Seaton (The Hook—D, Airport—L), David Miller (Lonely Are the Brave—D; Executive Action—L) and Lamont Johnson (A Gunfight—D; Cattle Annie and Little Britches—L).

The actresses that both of them worked with include Ava Gardner (*The Killers*—L; *Seven Days in May*—both), Barbara Stanwyck (*The Strange Love of Martha Ivers*—D; *Sorry, Wrong Number*—L), Lizabeth Scott (*Desert Fury*—L; *Out of the Past*—D; *I Walk Alone*—both), Virginia Mayo (*The Flame and the Arrow, South Sea Woman*—L; *Along the Great Divide*—D), Deborah Kerr (*From Here to Eternity, Separate Tables, The Gypsy Moths*—L; *The Arrangement*—D), Silvana Mangano (*Ulysses*—D; *Conversation Piece*—L), Jean Simmons (*Elmer Gantry*—L; *Spartacus*—D) and Gena Rowlands (*Lonely Are the Brave*—D; *A Child Is Waiting*—L).

It is worth mentioning that one actor, Tony Curtis, worked with each of them more than once: three times with Lancaster (Criss Cross, Trapeze, Sweet Smell of Success) and twice with Douglas (*The Vikings, Spartacus*), not counting the cameo appearances of all the three actors in The List of Adrian Messenger. It did not happen by accident as Lancaster himself recommended Curtis to Douglas when the latter, as the producer, was casting *The Vikings*. Equally significant may seem the fact that Sir Laurence Olivier, the foremost film celebrity from the United Kingdom, co-starred with Lancaster and Douglas in The Devil's Disciple, a picture released in 1959, a year later he appeared in Douglas's Spartacus, and a year after that was replaced by Lancaster in Judgment at Nuremberg. To continue this kind of trivia, Walter Matthau launched his long and impressive acting career in 1955 playing villains in two western films, one starring Lancaster (The Kentuckian), and one with Douglas in the leading role (The Indian Fighter), and subsequently appeared in two other Douglas movies, Strangers When We Meet (1960) and Lonely Are the Brave (1962). Moreover, the coach that Matthau plays in The Bad News Bears (1976) was modeled on Lancaster himself-his son Bill wrote the screenplay based on his memories of being coached by his grumpy father.

Both intellectuals and ambitious filmmakers, Lancaster and Douglas started their own production companies in 1948 and 1955, respectively (at least once working for each other), and each produced numerous pictures and directed two including one western. They both appeared in essential films made and set in Europe (each playing, for instance, a European member of the anti-Nazi Resistance in a WW II picture, *The Train* and *The Heroes of Telemark*, respectively), and both—which is significant to the author of this book—have had a Polish connection. Lancaster starred in a screen adaptation of a play (*The Jeweller's Shop*) set and filmed in Krakow and originally written by Karol Wojtyła, a man who ended up being Pope John Paul II; Douglas, in addition to visiting Poland in the 1960s and meeting with students of the Film School in Łódź, wrote a novel (*Dance with the Devil*) set in Poland (mostly in Krakow) and with a strong Polish female protagonist.

To continue the subject of film and literature tie-ins, the two actors share three original writers in their respective filmographies. Paul I. Wellman is the original author of the novel that inspired Douglas's The Walls of Jericho (1948, directed by John M. Stahl), as well as of the novel (Bronco Apache) that was used as the basis of Lancaster's Apache (directed by Robert Aldrich). Furthermore, both actors played in a screen version of a Tennessee Williams play: Douglas in Irving Rapper's The Glass Menagerie and Lancaster in Daniel Mann's The Rose Tattoo. Moreover, about the same time as Douglas appeared in Richard Quine's adaptation of Evan Hunter's novel Strangers When We Meet (1960, co-starring Kim Novak), Lancaster was getting ready to star in The Young Savages (1961, featuring Dina Merrill and Shelley Winters), Frankenheimer's crime film based on Hunter's novel A Matter of Conviction. Interestingly, the two actors appeared in films that were inspired by two different precursors of the science fiction genre: the basis for the screenplays of Douglas's 2,000 Leagues Under the Sea (directed by Richard Fleischer) and The Light at the Edge of the World (1981, directed by Kevin Billington) were novels by Jules Verne, and Lancaster's The Island of Dr. Moreau (directed by Don Taylor) was based on a book by H. G. Wells.

Getting back to religion and history, Douglas, in his book *Climbing the Mountain*, writes extensively about his fascination with Moses, the biblical figure whom Lancaster had the privilege of portraying on the screen. Another unusual coincidence: one of Douglas's biggest box-office successes of the 1950s was Fleischer's costume drama *The Vikings*; and Lancaster, in one of the major roles of his later period, in Daniel Petrie's *Rocket Gibraltar* (nota bene, in Poland entitled *Pogrzeb Wikinga, A Viking's Burial*), plays a dying man who expresses his wish to his grandchildren to be buried in the Vikings' fashion.

Regardless of whether Lancaster and Douglas should be regarded as a screen couple or team (their case is somewhat different from those of the names listed in the opening paragraphs of the Introduction), they were definitely frequent co-stars, and their onscreen partnership brought about some exceptional results due to their chemistry, mutual understanding (possibly resulting from similar backgrounds) and political orientation. Furthermore, for many years they were also good and loyal friends, respectful of each other's work. Hence, it seems appropriate to combine their respective careers as the scope of one publication. But the reason for this book is not only the actors' friendship, collaboration and affinity. Both Lancaster and Douglas were professionals of the highest caliber. They were prolific actors of unparalleled longevity. They made many movies but, more importantly, a significant number of cinematic masterpieces. Lancaster appeared in a host of historically essential pictures and delivered towering performances in most, notably in *The Killers, From Here to Eternity, Sweet Smell of Success, Elmer Gantry, Birdman of Alcatraz, The Leopard* and *Conversation Piece*, just to name seven of his major films. Douglas will never be forgotten due to his great portrayals in *Champion, Ace in the Hole, Detective Story, Lust for Life, Paths of Glory, Spartacus, Lonely Are the Brave* and several other remarkable pictures. Out of the movies that they made together, the indisputably most important ones are *I Walk Alone, Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* and *Seven Days in May*.

In the 1997 poll of *Entertainment* magazine, Douglas was selected as #36 and Lancaster as #39 movie star of all time. In a similar survey conducted by the American Film Institute and unveiled on June 15, 1999, Douglas is ranked as #17 and Lancaster as #19 among the top male movie stars of all time. Lancaster appeared almost incessantly on the box office ranking lists in the years 1950 through 1962; Douglas's name can be found there each year between 1958 and 1963. And these are only some of the actors' many distinctions and honors—information about the others can be found in the respective two parts of the book.

Despite all of that, this project would never have been conceived if not for the numerous literary references to the actors' names, their personae and their films that have been discovered in over 150 works by more than 120 authors—references that testify to the stars' popularity, to their greatness, to their uniqueness and to their immense impact outside the movie world. Those references and allusions (henceforth, the word 'reference' will be frequently used to cover both) constitute the testing ground for a study of film perception. In order to conduct such a study, one needs to establish certain terminology that would be understood in the same way by the reader as it is meant by the author. The first four terms needed here have been briefly defined by Ken Wlaschin in the Introduction to his book The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the World's Great Movie Stars and Their Films (1979). They are an actor's off-screen personality (rather obvious), his/her screen personality ("composed of almost every aspect of the star, from timbre of voice and way of speaking to bodily movement and unconscious mannerisms"), image ("a combination of screen roles, screen personality and screen presentation with off-screen behavior and public relations") and persona. The last one, according to Wlaschin, "is the most intriguing aspect of a star and is usually developed over a period of time in conjunction with the personality. It is the

most mythical part because it is the basis of what a star means. Although it derives from the roles that stars play in films, it soon becomes a separate entity which links the different roles" [pp. 7-8].

The other important concept closely related to the problem of film perception is *identification*. As comprehensively discussed by Alicja Helman in her *Słownik pojęć filmowych* (*A Dictionary of Film Terminology*, 1991, pp. 123-151), the idea was first addressed by Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) in *Massenphycholgie und Ich – Analyse* (1921) and has been further developed throughout the 20th century by other psychologists, scholars and film theorists. Since film perception is the topic of this book, let us list most of those that, according to Ms. Helman, have considerably contributed to the theory. Thus, here is the list of the names, followed, in some cases, by the pivotal work:

- a) Jacques Lacan (1901-1981, French psychologist;
- b) Béla Balázc (1884-1949), Hungarian film critic, *Der Geist des Films* (1930);
- c) Jean Deprun (1923-2006), French philosophy historian, article "Le Cinema et l'identification," (*Revue Internationale de Filmologie*, 1947);
- d) Albert Michotte van den Berck (1881-1965), Belgian experimental psychologist;
- e) Edgar Morin (b. 1921), French philosopher, *Le cinema ou l'homme imaginaire* (1958);
- f) Sigfried Kracaer (1889-1966), German sociologist and film theorist, *Theory of Film* (1960);
- g) Jean Mitry (1907-1988), French film theorist and filmmaker, *Esthétigue et psychologie du cinéma* (Volume I, 1963);
- h) Jean-Pierre Meunier, the author of Les structures de l'expérience filmique. L'identification fimique (1969), translated into English as The Structures of the Film Experience: Historical Assessment and Phenomenological Expansions (Amsterdam University Press, 2019);

- i) Jean-Louis Baudry (1930-2015), French novelist and psychoanalytical film theorist, article "Cinema: effects ideologiques produits par l'appareil de base" (1970), translated into English as "Ideological Effects of the Basic Cinematographic Apparatus" (*Film Quarterly*, Volume 28, Winter 1974-1975);
- j) Geoffrey Nowell-Smith (b. 1939), Project Director of the Joint European Filmography, and Fellow of the European Humanities Research Centre at Oxford University, article "A Note on History – Discourse" (*Edinburgh Magazine*, #1, 1976);
- k) Lawrence Crawford, article "Actional Nameability and Filmic Narrativity: Film Inner Speech to Identification" (*Quarterly Review of Film Studies*, Volume 6, #3);
- John Ellis (b. 1952), English professor of media arts, *Visible Fictions* (1982);
- m) Teresa de Lauretis (b. 1938), Italian feminist, psychologist and film and literary theorist, *Alice Doesn't: Feminism, Semiotics, Cinema* (1984);
- n) Dudley Andrew (b. 1945), American film theorist, *Concepts in Film Theory* (1984);
- o) Mary Ann Doane (b. 1952), American professor of film and media, *The Desire to Desire* (1987).

Since it would take a lot of space to present in detail each of those scholars' contributions to the idea, it should suffice to focus on at least four of them, the ones whose discoveries and opinions are related to our interests in the most obvious or direct way. Deprun, for instance, tries to convince us that the concept of *identification* is derived from a religious attitude that evokes film. Mitry suggests that *identification* needs to be addressed within a wider concept, *participation*; and Baudry is one of the first ones to notice that *imitation* develops into *projection* when the imitation reaches higher levels and focuses on more complex behaviors, in addition to copying superficial features (such as mood, hairdo and characteristic gestures of a movie star). Finally, de Lauretis comes up with the distinction of two categories of identification, 'maleness' and 'femaleness,' and insists that they impact the perception on both sides of the experience: in the viewer and in the image on the screen.

In addition to discussing all the findings and opinions of the other scholars and critics, Helman offers her own conclusive definition of *identification*, which can be translated in the following way: "This concept means a certain mental mechanism, an essential constituent of film perception, analyzed by some film theoreticians in the combination of *projection - identification* [p. 123]. Howard Suber, in his book The Power of Film (2006), indirectly supports this combination or composite when discussing the concept of acting. He says, "Thus we revealed the secret of great film acting: it is not action, but reaction that counts. The emotional response of the audience comes not just from what is projected *from* the screen but also from what the audience projects onto it" [p. 5]. What it all means is that not only does a film viewer identify himself/herself with a given character, but he/she also endows the (usually) protagonist with his/her own traits, especially those that are pertinent to or helpful in resolving the problem the fictitious or real-life character has to face. Summarizing the words of all the scholars mentioned above, one can add that the *projection - identification* process consists in the viewer giving up his "ego" and, oblivious of what is happening around him/her, completely transforming him/herself into a character on the screen through intensive concentration and due to the distraction caused by the action on the screen. The other conducive elements include the intimate atmosphere in a movie theater—created by such elements as darkness, illusive sense of loneliness and passivity combined with high expectationsas well as the cinematic effects that the viewer is exposed to/manipulated by, such as motion, close-up, editing and musical score. The most vivid example of this phenomenon that I have found in fiction, not counting some excellent instances in Tom Kakonis's Flawless (to be presented later in the book), comes from Larry McMurtry's novel Texasville (1987), a sequel to The Last Picture Show (1966), which shows Sonny, on the top seat of bleachers, imagining watching the prisoner-exchange scene from Rio Bravo and ready to make a dangerous move to imitate Dude (Dean Martin) who is about to jump Joe Burdette (Claude Akins). The excerpt is quoted in my book Western Movie References in American Literature (2012).

Another interesting point in Suber's book is the idea of individual or subjective perception, which he mentions in the entry on "Values": "Next time you're at home watching a film on DVD with others, try stopping the film halfway through and asking the people in the room to rate the power of each of the characters at that point in the film relative to the others. You will nearly always find substantial agreement. But if you then ask them how they *value* those same characters, there will frequently be significant disagreement. People often value characters differently at different points in the story, and their valuation often correlates with their opinion of the film as a whole" [p. 302]. This kind of reasoning can be further developed into a statement that there are other factors

determining the individualized perception, such as the viewer's age, gender, background, level of education, social status, system of values, etc.

The terms and concepts defined in the above five paragraphs should be helpful in the understanding and appreciation of the data provided in this book. An overwhelming number of fiction excerpts will be quoted to illustrate Lancaster's and Douglas's impact on the feelings and thinking of countless literary characters—either through their film roles, their screen personalities or, simply, their established fame. And, all of the excerpts, when taken collectively, will make it possible to track the gradual development of the actors' personae throughout the years of their acting careers. The reader will be presented with the circumstances of, and the reasons for, a narrator's or a character's mentioning of one of the two actors or any of their films in a given context. Wherever possible or appropriate, a deeper analysis will be carried out and the influence of such a reference on a character studied. Since most of the resources are fiction books, it is quite obvious that it is the author himself or herself that makes a deliberate choice (in most cases) to attach certain references to certain characters.

The main body of the book consists of two parts, each devoted to one actor and each having five identical sections. In the first section, references to the actor's films are discussed; the second section presents references to the actor himself (almost exclusively composed of excerpts with no movie titles)-the reason for such a division being purely technical/organizational and far from implying any existing distinction between star as performer and star as person: on the one hand, allowing the author to allocate the quotations according to some clear criteria, and, on the other hand, making it easier for the reader to find specific references; the third section shows the complete list of references (found) to the actor and his films (such a list, in addition to offering a clear picture of which writers and to what extent favor each actor, is justified by the fact that not all excerpts found in the resources are presented in the first two sections-either because of their relative insignificance or abundance in a given work); the fourth section offers the credits of the films referenced (to avoid unnecessary repetition in the expository film descriptions in the first section); and the fifth section presents the actor's complete monographic bibliography. The name of an actor, when mentioned within a quoted passage in his own part, is always in **bold print** and underlined, just like all the titles of his films. Bold print itself is used for a given movie's other members of the cast and crew and for any related keywords or phrases, character names, unique locations or dialogue lines quoted from that film-in addition to the name of the other star and/or his films mentioned in excerpts outside of his own part. The information about the original written sources is provided in three different places. The Overall

Bibliography contains the author's name, the title of the literary work, and then the information about the specific edition that a given excerpt was extracted from (in order to make it possible for the reader to find the exact quotes). On the other hand, in the text of Sections I and II and in the list of references to an actor and his films (Section III in both parts) the year of its copyright/original publication is provided instead (to give the reader an accurate idea about the time relation between the book and the film or between different references).

The third part of the book, offering more descriptive and argumentative content, is called 'Epilogue: Final Remarks and Conclusions.' Besides the obvious, it provides classification and further analysis of all the references presented in the main body, and it elaborates on the similarities and differences in the two actors' careers, screen personalities, images and personae, as well as on their off-screen relationship and friendship, thus further justifying the scope of the project.

The literary sources from which the citations were drawn are mostly narrative (but, occasionally, also lyrical) works: novels, short stories, plays, poems and some nonfiction books. The nonfiction books include biographies and autobiographies that are not focused on Hollywood celebrities. The three exceptions are *Finding Peter: A True Story of the Hand of Providence and Evidence of Life After Death* by William Peter Blatty, *Kirk Douglas: The Man—The Actor* by Michael Munn, and *Climbing the Mountain: My Search for Meaning* by Kirk Douglas. The reason for the inclusion of references from Blatty's autobiography, regardless of the author's stint in Hollywood as a screenwriter, is the fact that he is, above all, an accomplished novelist; moreover, his book *Finding Peter* is much more than just a biography. Also justified are the quotations from Munn's and Douglas's memoir is much more than a mere autobiography.

While, admittedly, some of the quotations presented in the book come from relatively obscure authors, the majority of the works that make the Overall Bibliography were written by acclaimed authors. Amongst them are some very well-known American main-stream writers—James Michener, Jack Kerouac, John Updike, Thomas Pynchon, E. L. Doctorow, Larry McMurtry, John Irving, Pat Conroy, Sam Shepard, Joyce Carol Oates, Don DeLillo and Paul Auster; some masters of the mystery genre—Raymond Chandler, Ed McBain, Lawrence Block, Robert B. Parker, Lawrence Sanders, Donald E. Westlake, Elmore Leonard, Stuart M. Kaminsky and Joseph Wambaugh; some new talents in the mystery field—Loren D. Estleman, James Ellroy, Greg Iles, Dennis Lehane, T. Jefferson Parker, George Pelecanos, Edward Bunker and Eric Jerome Dickey; and several masters of other popular genres—Stephen King, Michael Crichton, Nelson DeMille and Ralph Peters. The international tone or flavor of the citations is provided by authors, all writing in English, that are either foreign (e.g., Sebastian Barry, Elizabeth Hay, Dietrich Kalteis, Maureen Lee, Melinda McCracken, Malla Nunn, Ian Rankin, Ron M. Ritchie and C. K. Stead), foreign-born (Alex Abella, Carlos Eire and Dermot McEvoy) or born to first-generation U.S. immigrants (Oscar Hijuelos, Tom Kakonis).

Biographical books about Lancaster and Douglas began appearing at the time when both actors were at the peak of their popularity, and they keep being published years after each of them made his last movie. While new books about their lives and careers are certainly welcome—there is always something important to add—a book like this, a book offering a new angle, a database of quotations, comments and reflections with a perspective and a filter provided by one of the possibly most respected and acclaimed groups of intellectuals, writers, is definitely a fresh and significant contribution to the general image that past and current generations of moviegoers have had about the two unquestioned legends of the screen.

With the cinema by now well established as one of the major modern art forms, it is impossible to question the use in the study of film perception the two great actors' foremost achievements, truly artistic, stunningly entertaining and certainly worth saving for future generations. It is only natural that the need is especially realized and the obligation undertaken by one of those spellbound viewers that grew up witnessing and co-experiencing (in the dim silence of a movie theater) the adventures of the Crimson Pirate and Spartacus, the gunfights of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, the manipulations of Charles Tatum and Elmer Gantry, the dilemmas of Sergeant Milton Warden and Colonel Martin Casey, the demons of Vincent Van Gogh and Ernst Janning, the tragedies of Robert Stroud and Jack Burns, the disillusions of Colonel Dax and Prince Don Fabrizio Salina. The list can go on and on.

PAGES MISSING FROM THIS FREE SAMPLE

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- The authors and publishers of all the other books (see Overall Bibliography) where references to Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and/or their films have been found, but whom—due to the relatively small size of the excerpts cited (the overall number of words in one work not exceeding three hundred)—I have not contacted.

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