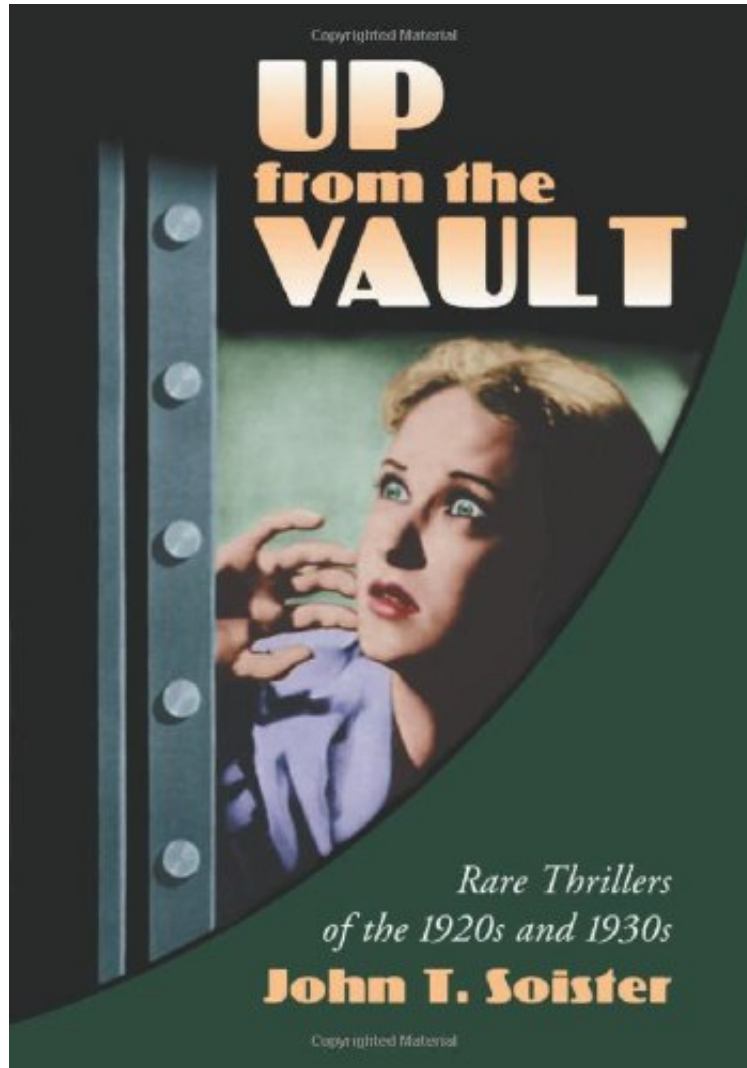


[Download free pdf] Up from the Vault: Rare Thrillers of the 1920s and 1930s

## Up from the Vault: Rare Thrillers of the 1920s and 1930s

*John T. Soister*

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**John T. Soister : Up from the Vault: Rare Thrillers of the 1920s and 1930s** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Up from the Vault: Rare Thrillers of the 1920s and 1930s:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Flicker FunBy Brad BakerJohn Soister's "Up From the Vault" is a scholarly review of obscure horror movies from the late silent period to the early thirties. I mean, these are some wierd flicks! Culled from the terror-genre, Soister's book scans rare thrillers and mysteries, with information found no-where else. The author travelled to London's BFI(British Film Institute) to inspect damaged nitrates(on a Movieola) of the 1923 "Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu", which almost no-one-else has ever seen. Using web-sites, archives, and libraries, Soister has captured complete story-lines, full casts, and detailed minutiae on 21 films, half of which are lost; the rest

residing in arcane collectors' libraries; some surface rarely on Turner Classic Movies. One film, "The Chinese Parrot(1927)", is the second American effort of legendary German director Paul Leni, and it's only the second screen appearance of Earl Derr Bigger's Charlie Chan. The first Chan movie("House Without a Key") was a ten-chapter serial. Paul Leni died suddenly in 1929 of blood poisoning from an ulcerated tooth. Soister's book provides seven pages of critique, background, and pictures from the mysterious "Chinese Parrot". It is remarkable, as this film turned to dust long ago. An early RKO C. Aubrey Smith thriller, "The Monkey's Paw", is reviewed, featuring casting notes, production history, and two photos from the film, featuring a seductive young Nena Quatero. This tantalizing report is on a 1933 motion picture that no longer exists. Another entry is MGM's 1929 "The Unholy Night", an historic, early talkie directed by actor Lionel Barrymore, and featuring a nervous Boris Karloff as Abdoul. A slow film with a good ending, I saw "The Unholy Night" on TCM cable. It has never been on VHS or DVD. Roland West directed the classic "The Bat(1926)" and "The Bat Whispers(1930)"; both of which were, at one time, lost. Archivists have recovered both famous films. An even earlier Roland West production, "The Unknown Purple(1923)", featuring an invisible man, has been lost forever. "Up From the Vault" contains a complete review, and a picture from "The Unknown Purple". Not for everyone, "Up From the Vault" is a cinephile's delight; the author's detective work cannot be faulted. John Soister's effort here is heart-felt and pure. And, after all, work is joy if you love it. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Charming, Eccentric BookBy Bret CurryJohn Soister is one of the most enjoyable writers on horror films writing today, and he had to be to make this book work. The choice of films covered is, to say the least, eccentric--thrillers that are lost or difficult to see. Many are not just lost, or existing only in museums, but quite obscure films which left no significant footprints in film history. This book is worth getting because of the charm and wit of John Soister's writing. He makes us you care about movies you have never heard of. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A tough readBy John HouriganWhile I certainly find the subject matter of this book interesting, it is an extremely tough read given the author's writing style. I made myself slog through it given my interest in the subject matter, but it was exhausting, to say the least.

A number of thrillers made in the 1920s and 1930s have become available again thanks to new technology. There are a few, however, that remain elusive to most, if not all, movie buffs. This book covers 21 thrillers from those decades that are well-regarded and eagerly sought, but difficult to find--The Mystery of Dr. Fu Manchu (1923), The Unknown Purple (1923), The Sorrows of Satan (1926), While London Sleeps (1926), The Monkey Talks (1927), The Chinese Parrot (1927), Stark Mad (1929), The Unholy Night (1929), High Treason (1929), The Spider (1931), Eran Trece (1931), The Monkey's Paw (1933), Trick for Trick (1933), Deluge (1933), The Vanishing Shadow (1934), The Witching Hour (1934), Double Door (1934), Black Moon (1934), Le Golem (1936), The Scarab Murder Case (1937), and Sh! The Octopus (1937). For each film, the author provides such details as the production company, running time, release date(s), cast and production credits, a synopsis, and commentary.

"Unique...highly interesting...incisively written...distinctive...important piece of history...does a service to fans"--Monsters from the Vault; "a great read and a great book"--Little Shoppe of Horrors; "magnificent...a must...important...wonderful"--VideoScope; "very interesting...a good job...recommended reading"--Silents Are Golden; "fluid writing style...[the author has] done his homework"--Video Watchdog; "sheds light on 21 undeservedly neglected films" --Monsters from the VaultAbout the AuthorJohn T. Soister is a teacher of modern and classical languages, and lives in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.