

DOCUMENTARY EXPRESSION AND THIRTIES AMERICA



Walker Evans

WILLIAM STOTT

**Documentary
Expression and
Thirties America**

WILLIAM STOTT

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

London Oxford New York



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

London Oxford New York
Glasgow Toronto Melbourne Wellington
Cape Town Ibadan Nairobi Dar es Salaam Lusaka Addis Ababa
Delhi Bombay Calcutta Madras Karachi Lahore Dacca
Kuala Lumpur Singapore Hong Kong Tokyo

Copyright © 1973 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 73-82676

First published by Oxford University Press, New York, 1973

First issued as an Oxford University Press paperback, 1976

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

PART ONE: Documentary	1
CHAPTER 1. What Is Documentary?	5
Documentary: The Primacy of Feeling	8
The Two Documents and How They Work	12
CHAPTER 2. Social Documentary	18
CHAPTER 3. The Two Persuasions	26
Direct	26
Vicarious	33
CHAPTER 4. What Documentary Treats	46
PART TWO: The Documentary Motive and the Thirties	65
CHAPTER 5. The Central Media	75
CHAPTER 6. The New Deal	92
FDR	93
WPA	102
CHAPTER 7. A Documentary Imagination	119
PART THREE: The Documentary Nonfiction of the Thirties	141
CHAPTER 8. Popularized Case-Worker Studies	145

CHAPTER 9. Social Science Writing	
Case Study	152
Participant Observation	156
CHAPTER 10. Documentary Reportage: Radical	163
Exposé Quotation	171
Case Study	173
Participant Observer	175
CHAPTER 11. Informant Narrative	178
CHAPTER 12. The Documentary Book	190
CHAPTER 13. Documentary Reportage: "Conservative"	211
PART FOUR: <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i>	238
CHAPTER 14. The Photographs	259
CHAPTER 15. The Text	267
Notes	290
Bibliography	315
Index	348
	355