

Contents

| | |
|---|------|
| General Editor's Preface | xi |
| Acknowledgments | xiii |
| Author's Note | xv |
| Introduction | 1 |
| 1 An Epic by Any Other Name | 9 |
| 2 Epic into Film | 13 |
| 3 Biblical: The Old Testament | 25 |
| 4 Biblical: The New Testament | 42 |
| 5 Greece: Gods and Heroes | 52 |
| 6 Greece: From Marathon to Alexander | 67 |
| 7 Rome: From Myth to Republic | 76 |
| 8 Imperial Rome: Crisis and Civil War | 87 |
| 9 Imperial Rome: Slaves and Barbarians | 103 |
| 10 Imperial Rome: Christian Conflicts | 115 |
| 11 Early Medieval: Norsemen, Saxons, and the Cid | 136 |
| 12 Epic Aftertastes: Misnomers and Modern Myth | 160 |
| Filmography | 167 |
| Critical Bibliography | 205 |
| Index of Names | 207 |
| Index of Film Titles | 215 |

| | | |
|-------|---|--------|
| 1 | <i>Ben-Hur</i> (1959) | 2 |
| 2 | <i>The Fall of the Roman Empire</i> | 3 |
| 3 | <i>The Ten Commandments</i> (1956) | 3 |
| 4-5 | <i>The Fall of the Roman Empire</i> | 4, 5 |
| 6 | <i>Ben-Hur</i> (1959) | 5 |
| 7 | <i>Hercules Unchained</i> | 14 |
| 8 | <i>Quo vadis</i> (1951) | 14 |
| 9 | <i>Solomon and Sheba</i> | 15 |
| 10 | <i>Ben-Hur</i> (1925) | 18 |
| 11 | <i>The Private Life of Helen of Troy</i> | 18 |
| 12 | <i>Quo vadis</i> (1951) | 19 |
| 13 | <i>Aphrodite, Goddess of Love</i> | 22 |
| 14 | <i>Hercules</i> | 23 |
| 15 | <i>El Cid</i> | 23 |
| 16-17 | <i>The Bible in the Beginning . . .</i> | 28, 29 |
| 18-19 | <i>Noah's Ark</i> | 29, 32 |
| 20 | <i>Sodom and Gomorrah</i> (1962) | 32 |
| 21 | <i>The Egyptian</i> | 33 |
| 22 | <i>Land of the Pharaohs</i> | 38 |
| 23 | <i>The Ten Commandments</i> (1956) | 39 |
| 24 | <i>Samson and Delilah</i> (1949) | 38 |
| 25 | <i>David and Bathsheba</i> | 39 |
| 26 | <i>Solomon and Sheba</i> | 40 |
| 27 | <i>The Gospel according to St Matthew</i> | 48 |
| 28 | <i>The King of Kings</i> (1927) | 48 |
| 29 | <i>King of Kings</i> (1961) | 49 |
| 30 | <i>The Greatest Story Ever Told</i> | 49 |
| 31 | <i>Antigone</i> | 54 |
| 32 | <i>Hercules</i> | 56 |
| 33 | <i>Hercules Unchained</i> | 56 |
| 34 | <i>Hercules Conquers Atlantis</i> | 57 |
| 35 | <i>Jason and the Argonauts</i> | 62 |
| 36 | <i>The Wooden Horse of Troy</i> | 62 |
| 37-38 | <i>Helen of Troy</i> | 63 |
| 39 | <i>Ulysses</i> | 66 |
| 40-41 | <i>The Giant of Marathon</i> | 70 |
| 42 | <i>The 300 Spartans</i> | 71 |
| 43 | <i>Aphrodite, Goddess of Love</i> | 71 |
| 44-46 | <i>Alexander the Great</i> | 74, 75 |
| 47 | <i>Duel of the Titans</i> | 78 |

Illustrations

| | | |
|-------|--|----------|
| 48 | <i>Amazons of Rome</i> | 82 |
| 49 | <i>Salammbô</i> | 82 |
| 50 | <i>Jupiter's Darling</i> | 82 |
| 51 | <i>Scipio Africanus</i> | 83 |
| 52 | <i>Fabiola</i> | 90 |
| 53 | <i>Carry on Cleo</i> | 90 |
| 54 | <i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i> | 91 |
| 55 | <i>Cleopatra (1934)</i> | 96 |
| 56 | <i>Cleopatra (1963)</i> | 97 |
| 57 | <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> | 97 |
| 58 | <i>Julius Caesar (1970)</i> | 100 |
| 59-60 | <i>Julius Caesar (1953)</i> | 100, 101 |
| 61 | <i>The Warrior and the Slave Girl</i> | 106 |
| 62 | <i>The Arena</i> | 106 |
| 63 | <i>The Column</i> | 107 |
| 64 | <i>The Fall of the Roman Empire</i> | 107 |
| 65 | <i>Spartacus</i> | 113 |
| 66 | <i>Spartacus the Gladiator</i> | 113 |
| 67 | <i>Roma</i> | 118 |
| 68 | <i>Messalina (1960)</i> | 119 |
| 69 | <i>The Silver Chalice</i> | 118 |
| 70 | <i>Attila the Hun</i> | 119 |
| 71 | <i>Constantine the Great</i> | 122 |
| 72 | <i>The Last Days of Pompeii (1959)</i> | 122 |
| 73 | <i>Quo vadis (1951)</i> | 123 |
| 74 | <i>The Robe</i> | 127 |
| 75 | <i>Androcles and the Lion</i> | 127 |
| 76 | <i>Barabbas</i> | 132 |
| 77 | <i>Ben-Hur (1925)</i> | 133 |
| 78 | <i>Ben-Hur (1959)</i> | 133 |
| 79 | <i>Battle for Rome</i> | 138 |
| 80 | <i>Theodora, Slave Empress</i> | 138 |
| 81 | <i>Goliath and the Barbarians</i> | 139 |
| 82 | <i>Erik the Conqueror</i> | 139 |
| 83 | <i>The Red Mantle</i> | 143 |
| 84 | <i>Die Nibelungen (1924)</i> | 148 |
| 85 | <i>Whom the Gods Wish to Destroy</i> | 152 |
| 86 | <i>Camelot</i> | 152 |
| 87 | <i>Alfred the Great</i> | 152 |
| 88 | <i>El Cid</i> | 153 |