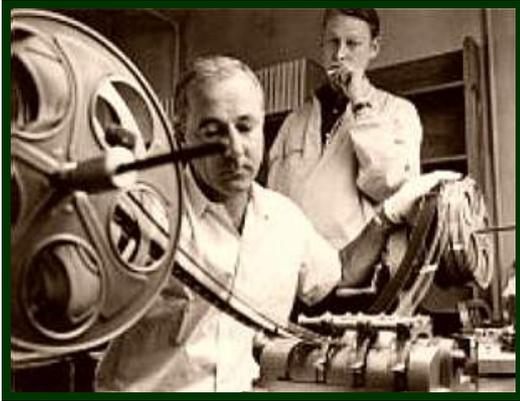


GEOFFREY FOOT GBFE - Prisoner Editor



Last mailing was produced too late to mention the sorry news that Prisoner editor Geoff Foot had died, aged 95. Co-founder of the Guild of British Film Editors, Foot edited four episodes of the series: A. B. and C., Free for All, The Schizoid Man and Many Happy Returns. He also worked on Dance of the Dead, but received no screen credit as the episode was re-cut, on the insistence of Patrick McGoohan.

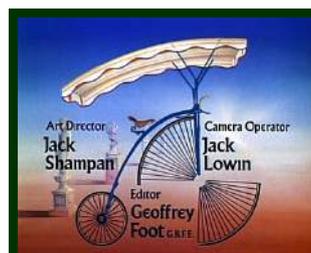
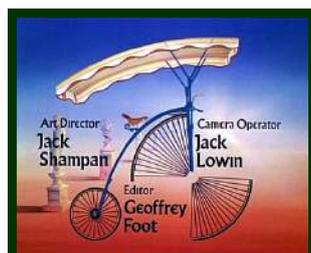
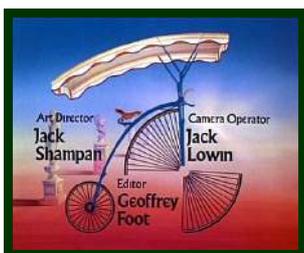
Norma West remembered a “difficult area” in her episode’s dance sequence: “The scene at the fancy dress ball should have been played with the two of us very close. When we came to do it, (Pat) just wouldn’t. (He) said, ‘Nothing personal, nothing personal Norma.’” McGoohan did not approve of Foot’s editing of the episode, which led to Dance of the Dead being shelved for many weeks. Eventually, John S. Smith, who also edited other episodes, re-edited it and gained the screen credit.

Music editor on the series, Eric Mival, remarked upon the way that McGoohan always wanted things to go faster. As well as the editing of episodes, the star apparently held the same approach towards the music. “He seemed to take over. I remember Geoff Foot, who was regarded as the leading editor in the business, becoming a little annoyed. Even the first episode was cut again, because it wasn’t moving fast enough.”

According to Eric Mival, Foot had been hired as supervising editor on the series. He was responsible for the overall cutting style and editing pace of the whole series, in particular editing down the first episode “Arrival” from a 90 minute version to a television hour and most notably editing and supervising the shoot and scoring of the cult series’ main title sequence and prologue.

Foot was highly regarded within the film industry although being always one of the ‘back room’ production team. Born in London, his work began as far back as the mid 1930s and he was involved with several British films around that time, moving on to work with the highly respected David Lean in the 1950s and 1960s. His career highlight was the editing of the movie “The Trials of Oscar Wilde” (1960). Foot continued working on screen features during the 1970s but slowed down after a heart attack in 1980, stopping his career in 1985.

Apart from The Prisoner, Geoff Foot apparently worked on no other television series, instead being engaged within the cinema industry for around half a century. *Roger Langley*



Geoff Foot’s four Prisoner episode screen credits, in order, the last two showing his Guild initials.

(Sources: Tony Sloman, The Independent obituary, 25th October, 2010 and book “Patrick McGoohan: Danger Man or Prisoner?” Tomahawk Press, 2007).