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**Image (JPEG) (Ott Sneeze)**

ott.jpg - Cover Image

42kB

**Abstract**

‘On January 7 1895, Frederic P Ott stood before the world’s first movie camera and sneezed. But the droplets by Ott were too fast, too small or too many for the primitive camera to record. The sneeze recorded here is the one the camera did not see’. Commissioned following a call by Bookworks for the New Writing Series edited by Jane Rolo and Michael Bracewell.

Co-authored with British author Lawrence Norfolk (acclaimed for his novels of historical fiction - Somerset Maugham Prize for Literature 1992), it followed earlier collaboration into the area of knowledge and genetics (Inheritance Hotel - Wysing Arts Center 1999, I Need to Know, Artlab5, Imperial College, London 2001). The historical artifact of Thomas Edison’s film piece of copyrighted moving image ever recorded, is at the heart of the concept. The books’ historically referenced fiction, alongside the actual images of a one second sneeze filmed using laser-imaging equipment at Oxford Lasers, and the 42 frames of the original film, are used to explore the development of technology between the chemical and digital imaging as a conceptual engagement with time and its mediation through the form of the book as a work in itself. A reflective account of the making is included in the Afterword.

**Item Type:** Book

**ISBN:** 1870699521

**Additional Information:** 1 volume

**Group:** Faculty of Media & Communication

**ID Code:** 16620

**Deposited By:** Mr Neal White

**Deposited On:** 28 Oct 2010 14:17

**Last Modified:** 07 Mar 2013 15:38

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