

# DOCUMENTATION

We introduce this item which sets out to trace the history of the formation and development of the original Lantern Society in the later part of the nineteenth century. In future issues of the *Journal* we plan to continue this **Documentary History** by reproducing contemporary accounts of the meetings of the Lantern Society from the *Optical Magic Lantern Journal* and other sources.

## The Formation of the Lantern Society

### A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY : Part I

The first volume of the *Optical Magic Lantern Journal* provides the following self-explanatory sequence of letters and editorial comment which enables the formation of the original *Lantern Society* to be readily traced:

I. Issue 6. November 1889.

LANTERN ASSOCIATION.

[To the Editor.]

SIR,—I see there is frequent allusion in your journal to the use of the lantern in connection with Camera Clubs and Photographic Societies. Three years ago this winter I ventured to suggest in the *Photographic News* the desirability of forming a Lantern Club pure and simple. So far as I know the suggestion did not take much root, and I now write to suggest the necessity, now that the lantern is so generally used and acknowledged as a power, that those who possess lanterns, are fond of working them, and wish to perfect themselves as manipulators, as lecturers, and as slide-producers, should club themselves together and form a Lantern Association. And I think they might have fortnightly or monthly exhibitions with great advantage to themselves and others; besides, as is evidenced at the Photographic Exhibition, where the lantern evening draws the largest audience, we might be sure of ourselves getting good companies and good shows of pictures.

I shall be glad if you, or some other persons of influence in the craft, would call together those interested, so that they might float the said club, for I am certain it would "go."—I am, yours very truly,  
7, Maddox St., W. T. H. HOLDING.

II. Issue 6. November 1889.

#### A Lantern Association.

IN another column attention is called by Mr. T. H. Holding to the desirability of forming a lantern association in London.

There are many who have lanterns who would highly prize the means of gaining the necessary knowledge of how to manipulate a lantern to advantage, and there are also many who would appreciate the opportunity of giving a short lecture in public, so as to gain confidence in themselves in case that at any time they were called upon to fill such a position, either as a means of amusement or profit.

There are various *lines* upon which an association of this nature may be run, one being that the members draw lots as to who shall manipulate the lantern and describe the slides; the other members, if necessary, contributing slides and giving a friendly criticism upon the doings of the operator, &c. It would, of course, add to the general interest if members were permitted to bring their friends at stated times. We shall be pleased to hear what our readers have to say upon the subject, and perhaps the London Lantern Association may be something in the near future.

III. Issue 7. December 1889.

LANTERN ASSOCIATION.

[To the Editor.]

SIR,—In the November number, which through some delay I have only just received, Mr. T. H. Holding suggests the formation of a "Lantern Club."

Country members would not be able to avail themselves much of the benefits arising therefrom, but they

might be admitted at a nominal fee, so that when in town they could have the opportunity of attending meetings.

Probably some system for the exchange of slides could be arranged and worked by the club. This would prove a great boon to lanternists in the provinces. Members desiring an exchange could send up to the secretary a list; and when an exchange has been effected, a small commission charged to both sides to pay expenses.—I am, Sir, yours truly,  
Market Place, Sleaford. W. H. SPITE.

IV. Issue 9. February 1890.

#### FORMATION OF A LANTERN CLUB.

[To the Editor.]

SIR,—Your proposal and that of Mr. Holding to form a Lantern Association or Club will I trust meet with hearty support.

Having taken great interest in the preparation, study, and exhibition of these much admired transparent photographs for very many years, and having worshipped at the shrine of M. M. Ferrier and Soulier, in the Boulevard Sevastopol, I am exceedingly anxious to see, if possible, further improvement in the pictures as well as in the apparatus for exhibiting the same. The latter has certainly received during the last few years much more attention; but more can still be done. Compressed gases—ether and benzoline saturators—render the means of illumination now so perfect and easy, that we shall I hope soon be able to give softer and more of Nature's effects on the screen than has been hitherto accomplished; not slavishly confining ourselves to perfectly clear glass for what are termed the highest lights, and to shadowless and somewhat weak photographs (positives), sacrificing thereby many beautiful atmospheric effects and the much desired chiaroscuro.

I shall be happy to become a subscriber to and an active member of any club or association.—Yours, &c.,  
SLINGSBY BETHELL.

Chelsea Lodge, Chelsea Embankment, Jan. 4, 1890.

V. Issue 9. February 1890.

#### FORMATION OF A LANTERN CLUB.

[To the Editor.]

SIR,—Will you permit me to call the attention of your readers to a step which I trust now to see taken—viz., to bring together, either by means of a club or association, in a practical form, those who are interested in the work of photographic optical lanterns.

I will not here detail the advantages that may possibly accrue from such an association, except to suggest—(a) the development and improvement of the lantern itself; (b) to help in popularising it generally; (c) to enable those who are fond of so delightful and scientific an amusement to become known to each other, and thus develop their common pursuit; (d) to hold in London and the country periodical exhibitions; (e) to facilitate the interchange of photographic slides; and (f) generally to promote lantern work.

The basis of such an association and its rules remain to be formulated. Meanwhile I wish to put plainly through your columns a very pointed but respectful request—viz.: Will all those who are favourable to the idea forward to me, at 46, Chesilton-road, Munster Park, S.W., or to the Hon. Slingsby Bethell, at Chelsea Lodge, Chelsea Embankment, their names and addresses, in order that they may be invited to a meeting, or informed of any proceedings that may be taken?—Yours, &c.,  
T. H. HOLDING.

46, Chesilton-road, Fulham, S.W.

VI. Issue 9. February 1890.

MR. T. H. HOLDING, in a letter in this issue, requests all those interested in the formation of a lantern club to send their names to him. We hope there will be a good response, and feel assured that such a society would do much to further the interests of both lanterns and lanternists.

WE cannot help thinking of the delightful facilities it will afford those who possess and who love the working of the lantern, to send a set of slides to member A. B., and when they want to amuse their friends in the drawing-room, or give an exhibition publicly, to borrow a set in return from A. B. And what a fine thing, again, it will be for the members of this club if they can have some special tariff from the great slide-makers and dealers. In fact, looked at from whatever standpoint, it is a movement of the highest importance for this popular and rising instrument.

IN connection with the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Northern Counties Photographic Association, an International Photographic Exhibition will be held in the Central Exchange Art Gallery from April 18 to May 3; and at the same time and place a supplementary exhibition of photo-apparatus, appliances, and mechanical printing processes.

VII. Issue 10. March 1890.

#### Notes.

AT a meeting lately held at St. James's Hall, Regent-street, W., it was decided that *The Lantern Society* be formed. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Bethel, Cresswell, Gladstone, Holding, Mackie, Sheppee, and Shipton, were appointed to formulate rules to be submitted to a general meeting, the date of which will be duly announced, and Mr. T. H. Holding, 46, Chesilton-road, Fulham, S.W., was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

VIII. Issue 12. May 1890.

#### The Lantern Society.

THE inaugural exhibition of lantern slides of this society took place last Friday in the theatre of the Society of Arts, when upwards of one hundred and fifty lantern transparencies were projected before a large audience. The slides, which included English, Canadian, Indian and Continental views, were lent by Messrs. Bethel, Maw and Gladstone. The illuminant used was the electric light, and the lens had been specially fitted by Steward.

The objects of this society are to develop and popularise the use of the optical lantern in connection with art, science and recreation, and to unite those interested in such work.

Those desirous of joining may obtain full particulars from the Hon. Sec., Lieut. C. E. Gladstone, R.N., 6, Bolton-street, Piccadilly.



Below are full particulars which those desirous of joining the *Lantern Society* so established in 1890 would have received on application to its Hon. Sec. Lieut. C. E. Gladstone, R. N.:

# THE LANTERN SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN

THE HON. SLINGSBY BETHELL, CB.

HON. SEC.

COMMANDER C.E. GLADSTONE, RN.

6 BOLTON STREET, W.

The Meetings of the Society are held at 20 Hanover Square, W., at Eight p.m. on the Second and Fourth Mondays in each month from October to April inclusive.

## PROGRAMME OF WORK

- I. *To acquire suitable apparatus for the purpose of giving exhibitions of general scientific interest to both members and their friends.*
- II. *To obtain the services of specialists in every branch of Art or Science suited to optical demonstration.*
- III. *To offer – as far as the funds of the Society will permit – remuneration or awards for the development of the Optical Lantern, and all apparatus pertaining thereto.*
- IV. *To impart instruction in the use of the Optical Lantern, and the apparatus connected therewith.*
- V. *To secure for the members of the Society special advantageous terms from Manufacturers and others for the purchase or loan of apparatus and slides.*
- VI. *To form a large and comprehensive loan collection of Lantern Transparencies illustrative of art, science and kindred subjects; such loan collection to be placed at the disposal of every member upon conditions to be laid down by the Council.*
- VII. *To provide a means of inter-communication between the Members of the Society, whereby each member may be made acquainted with the private collections of his fellow-members and may be able to negotiate a mutual loan if so desired.*
- VIII. *To arrange an interchange of demonstrations between Photographic, Microscopical, and other Societies interested in Optical Lantern Work.*
- IX. *To collect and impart to such members as desire it information as to the means of obtaining permission to photograph in the various Museums and Collections.*

Lists of the Collections of Slides referred to in Paragraphs VI. and VII., and Programmes of the Meetings for the Current Session can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary.



# RULES.

## NAME.

I.—The Society shall be called "THE LANTERN SOCIETY."

## OBJECTS.

II.—The objects of the Society shall be to develop and popularise the use of the Optical Lantern in connection with Art, Science, and Recreation, and to unite those interested in such work.

## OFFICERS.

III.—The Officers of the Society, hereinafter called the Council, shall consist of a President (whose office shall be honorary), a Chairman, and Vice-chairman, an Honorary Secretary—who may also act as Treasurer—a Curator, and eight other members. Three members of the Council shall form a quorum for general business, and five for the election of members.

IV.—In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-chairman shall preside at the Society's meetings. In the absence of both, a chairman shall be elected by the meeting. The chairman for the time being shall have complete control of the proceedings over which he may preside, and shall decide in all matters not otherwise provided for by the rules. His decision shall be final unless within 14 days it be called into question by twelve members of the Society under the provisions of Rule XIX.

V.—It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to keep the minutes of the Council and of the Society; to receive all moneys and to pay the same to the Honorary Treasurer, or to the Society's Bankers; to keep the Society's account and other books; to conduct the correspondence; and generally to act under the instructions of the Council.

VI.—It shall be the duty of the Honorary Treasurer to receive from the Honorary Secretary all moneys due to the Society; to issue the membership tickets; to keep the account and other books pertaining to his office; make all payments; prepare the Cash Accounts, and Balance Sheets; and generally to act under the instructions of the Council. He shall make no payment on behalf of the Society, unless such payment be first authorised by the Council.

VII.—It shall be the duty of the Curator to take charge of all apparatus and similar property belonging to, or in the possession of, the Society, and generally to act under the instructions of the Council.

VIII.—The Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in the following manner. All nominations shall be in writing and shall be lodged in the hands of the Secretary seven clear days before the Annual General Meeting. If only the required number of members for filling the various offices in the Council be nominated, the Chairman shall declare them duly elected. In the event of more than the required number being proposed, the elections shall be determined by a paper ballot; two scrutineers being appointed by the meeting.

IX.—Four members of the Council, together with the President, Chairman, Vice-chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Curator shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election if nominated. The Council shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their own body during the current year. Any member or members so elected by the Council shall however retire at the next Annual General Meeting, when they will be eligible for re-election if nominated in the usual way.

## MEMBERS.

X.—The election of members (ordinary and honorary) shall be by ballot of the Council, five members to form a quorum; two black balls to exclude. Each candidate shall fill in a form provided for that purpose, and forward it to the Secretary, giving his name, address, and occupation, together with the signatures of two members as proposer and seconder, to one of whom he must be personally known. Honorary members may be elected by the Council at any time. They shall possess all the privileges of the ordinary members except those of voting and holding office.

XI.—Every member proposing or seconding a candidate for election as an ordinary or honorary member shall be understood to vouch for his fitness in every respect. A candidate unknown to any member of the Society, and thus unable to procure a proposer and seconder, must send in to the Council the names of two resident householders to whom he is personally well known, when if the said references appear to them to be satisfactory, the Council may proceed to the election of the candidate.

XII.—If, in the opinion of the Council, the conduct of any member—after he has been given an opportunity of being heard by the Council in self-defence—shall be deemed prejudicial to the interests of the Society, the Council shall have power to suspend such member pending the consideration of his conduct by a Special General Meeting to be called for that purpose. If two-thirds of those present and voting at such Meeting shall so decide, after he has been given an opportunity of being heard by the said Meeting in self-defence, the offending member shall be expelled from the Society, and shall lose all interest and benefit therein; the decision in such a matter shall be arrived at by ballot. In the event of any member being found to have copied, without the written permission of the owner, any slide which may have been lent him by the Society, or by any member thereof, he shall be held to be guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Society within the meaning of this rule.

XIII.—Any member desiring to withdraw from the Society must give notice in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the expiration of the current financial year (failing which he shall be held responsible for the ensuing year's subscription), but such resignation shall not be accepted until all duties in the shape of subscriptions, &c., be paid.

XIV.—The Council may elect any member of not less than one year's standing, as a Life Member, upon payment by him of the sum of Ten Guineas, but the said Life Member shall in every respect, save the payment of the annual subscription, remain upon the same footing as an ordinary member.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

XV.—The Annual Subscription for Town Members shall be One Guinea; the Annual Subscription for Country Members, residing outside a radius of 25 miles from Charing Cross, shall be half-a-guinea. (A member having a residence, place of business, or any regular occupation within the above-named radius of 25 miles from Charing Cross, shall be considered a town member.)

XVI.—All subscriptions shall become due on the 1st of October annually; if not paid within that month, notice shall be given by the Secretary; if not paid by the end of November, the member's name shall be posted at the next meeting of the Society; if not paid by the end of December, the defaulter shall cease to be a member of the Society, unless otherwise ordered by the Council.



The Council may at any time re-instate such member upon receiving satisfactory explanation and payment of all arrears.

XVII.—Before becoming entitled to any of the privileges of the Society, a member must pay his first year's subscription. If not paid within one month after election the Council shall erase his name from the list of members, unless the non-payment be explained to their satisfaction.

### GENERAL MEETINGS.

XVIII.—The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Monday in November in each year, for the purpose of receiving and adopting the balance-sheet and the report of the Council for the year ending the 30th September previous, for the election of Officers, for the appointment of an Auditor or Auditors, and for any other business in connection with the Society that may require the decision of the General Meeting. Notice of such Annual General Meeting, together with a copy of the balance-sheet and report, shall be sent by post to each member at his registered address, not more than fourteen nor less than seven days before the date fixed for holding such meeting. Twenty members shall form a quorum at any General Meeting.

XIX.—The Council may convene a Special General Meeting for any purpose whenever they deem it necessary. The Council shall convene a Special General Meeting upon a requisition to that effect signed by not less than twelve members of the Society, stating the purpose for which it is required. Such Special General Meeting shall be called within one calendar month after the requisition has been sent in. Notice of every Special General Meeting, setting out the purpose for which it is convened, shall be sent by post to each member, at his registered address, not more than fourteen nor less than seven days before the date fixed for holding such meeting.

### RULES AND BYE-LAWS.

XX.—These Rules shall not be altered, rescinded, or added to save at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, as provided for in Rule XIX. Notice of such proposed amendment shall be sent to every member in the circular calling such meeting.

XXI.—The Council may from time to time make, alter or annul such Byelaws and Regulations as they may think proper, provided the same be not inconsistent with these Rules, and such Byelaws and Regulations shall be binding upon each member of the Society, who, if he contravene them, shall be held to have contravened these Rules.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

XXII.—The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Council, who may at any time appoint Sub-committees from among their own number, or from among the members, for special purposes. The Council may appoint or remove a Secretary and such other salaried assistants as they may deem necessary.

### AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS.

XXIII.—The accounts of the Society shall be audited annually, by one or more auditors, to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. No officer shall be eligible to serve as auditor.

### BYE-LAWS.

1. The ordinary Meetings shall be held on the Second and Fourth Mondays in each month, from October to April inclusive, at 8 p.m.

2. The Council shall hold their Meetings at such times and places as they may appoint.

3. Any member may introduce one visitor at a time to any ordinary Meeting of the Society on writing the name and address of such visitor in the Visitors' Book.

4. All papers proposed to be read before the Society must, if required by the Council, be sent to the Hon. Sec., for their consideration at least fourteen clear days before the date fixed for the reading of the paper.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE LOAN COLLECTION OF SLIDES.

1. Members are invited to contribute Slides to the above collection. All Slides sent in for this purpose shall be placed in the hands of a Sub-Committee, who shall select such of them as they may consider of sufficient merit and interest, returning the remainder to the owner. The decision of the Sub-Committee shall be final.

2. All Slides submitted for selection must be clearly marked with the title or number, and have two white spots or a white band at the top of the Slide when viewed as in nature; and it is desirable that a written description of the Slides should accompany them, as well as a statement of the processes by which the Negatives and Slides were made, and any other matters of interest connected with them.

(A Form, showing the particulars required may be obtained on application from the Hon. Sec.)

3. Contributors to the Loan Collection of Slides are to be of two classes, viz., Donors and Lenders. Slides contributed by donors, and accepted by the Sub-Committee, are to become the property of the Society, and are to be kept in its possession when not in use. Slides lent to the Loan Collection, and accepted by the Sub-Committee, are to be the property of the Society during the time they are so lent, and are to be subject to the same rules as Slides forming the permanent Loan Collection. They may, however, be at any time withdrawn from the Loan Collection by the lenders on a month's notice to that effect being given to the Secretary of the Society. Every effort will be made to preserve the lent slides in good order, but the Society will not be liable for any loss or damage which they may sustain whilst in its possession.

4. Each member donating twelve, or lending fifty, Slides approved by the Sub-Committee, shall be entitled to the free loan of Slides for one year from the date of such contribution. Not more than 100 Slides are to be lent to any member at one time.

5. Non-contributing members may have the privilege of borrowing the Slides on payment at the rate of 6d. a dozen or portion of a dozen.

6. Applications for the loan of Slides shall be in writing, and in the case of two or more members desiring them for the same date, priority of application shall decide. The application must state definitely the date for which the Slides are wanted. Sufficient time will be allowed, free of cost, to the borrower for the transit of the Slides to the place at which he requires them; and all Slides must be despatched to the Society by the borrower not later than Twelve, Noon, on the day following the day of Exhibition. If the Slides be detained beyond that time the borrower shall be fined at the rate of Five Shillings per day, or part of a day.

7. All expense of carriage shall be defrayed by the borrower, and on returning the Slides the carriage must be prepaid.

8. The borrower shall be held responsible for all losses and damage which may accrue to the Slides from their despatch until they are received back by the Society.