

The Ambiguous Image and Space

In **Pictures Come to Life** Nekes begins with a history of the magic lantern, culminating in demonstrations of moving slides. It will be especially thrilling for lantern enthusiasts to see a water-tank slide and an elbow-polariscope in use, demonstrating spectacular physical, chemical and electrical processes.

In the second half of this video he shows how images printed or drawn on paper have been brought to life by mechanical means, by tricks of light (dioramic or translucent images) or by moving panoramas that imitated stage effects.

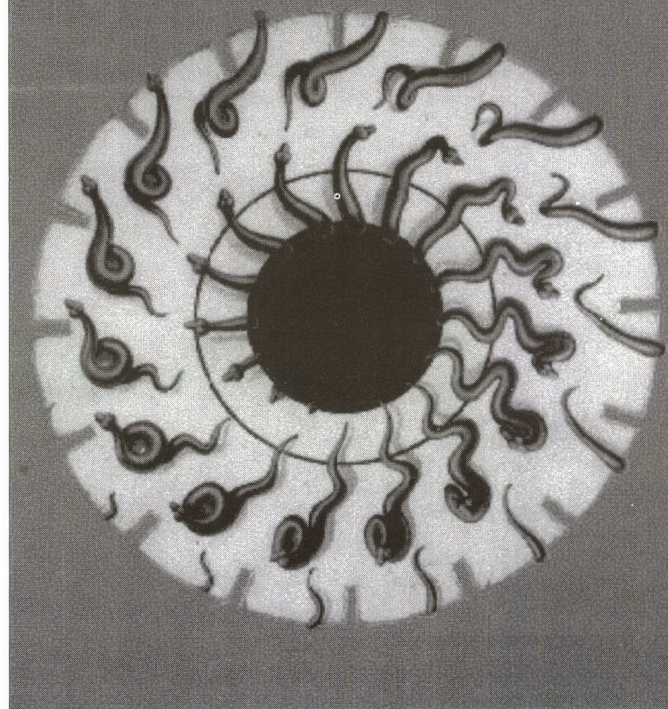
Multi-Thousand Picture Show develops Nekes's theories on various forms of multiplication and relationship of pictures, demonstrating that 'many of the techniques of montage used by both computer and film, for example morphing, have a long visual tradition that reaches back to the sixteenth century'. He illustrates his point with early anatomical diagrams, Humphrey Repton's folding montages (made to demonstrate architectural and landscape improvements), and a wonderful display of trick books, changing pictures and Victorian erotic playing-cards.

The Ambiguous Image and Space looks at ways of creating special illusions through trick pictures, perspective theatres, folding peepshows and, from the nineteenth century, the stereoscope, looking forward to today's holography.

The Magic Drum examines 'significant steps in the examination of the after-image and the stroboscopic effect', the basis of the modern moving picture. Again, every collector will envy the Nekes hoard of movement toys – thaumatropes, phenakistiscopes, zoetrope, praxinoscopes, along with flick books in ever more sophisticated forms, like the mutoscope and the kinora.

Media Magic is indeed a privileged guided tour of one of the world's richest and most personal collections. At present there is no plan for English versions of these videos, but the original versions with German commentary (by Werner Nekes himself) are available with English-language covers and cover notes. The cost is £35 each + £10 for postage; or £150 + £15 postage for the entire set.

MEDIA MAGICA - The Magic Drum



The Ambiguous Image and Space

Enquiries to:

Professor Werner Nekes
Kassenberg 34B, D-45479 Mülheim/Ruhr.
Telephone: 00-49-208-42-73-99
Fax: 00-49-208-42-10-11.

THE POOLE FAMILY TREE

As a supplement to his article in the last issue of the *Magic Lantern Journal*, John Powell has sent us a more detailed family tree of those Pooles who (except where otherwise indicated) were involved with panoramas and myrioramas.

