



**CABINET  
OF  
CURIOSITIES**

Magic Lantern Society  
International Convention  
28th-30th April 2017

**WE CALL UPON YOU**  
Lanternists, Collectors, Artists, Inventors,  
Engineers, Magicians and Eccentrics.  
**TO BRING YOUR WONDERS!**

**PLEASE SEND;**  
A description of the object, size e.t.c, and instructions on  
how it functions (if known). History and maker if  
known. An image if possible. Electrical requirements.  
We need to know before end of February who is  
planning on submitting so we can plan the final display.  
Objects can be brought to the cabinet at the convention.

The Utteridges will bring the convention to a close with their show *Feel the Magic* bringing 'wondrous surprises for young and old'. While not always exactly following the original script, anyone at the 2016 Bath meeting knows how hugely enjoyable their performances turn out.

When not enjoying one of the shows or talks, this convention will also feature a Cabinet of Curiosities, an exhibition and a number of sideshows as well as a market and auction.

The Cabinet of Curiosities, curated and presented by Frog Morris and Nicole Mollet, will exhibit a range of wonders as wide as members' imaginations. Some will be interactive and some very curious. Delegates need to book a time on arrival to experience this unique encounter.

The sideshows include Tony Lidington – The Raree Man – and his amazing peepshow (see Issue 8, page 1) featuring *Lucky Dicky Crangle* and *the Cinnabar Moth*. Tony has recreated the old tradition of the travelling peepshow, although hopefully without the original high risk of pickpocketing. Other sideshows include interactive illusions and interesting sights for all tastes. Lester Smith is curating an exhibition of rare historical items – previous ones have become MLS convention legends.

Another feature – and a break with tradition – is a public show on the first evening at the Crescent Theatre. *Magic and the Muse* is a collaboration between musicians Richard Navarro, Nicholas Thurston, Miriam Gould and magic lanternists Jeremy Brooker and Mervyn Heard. This unique performance features a collection of 'living pose' slides originally used in variety theatres by the parents of film actor, comedian and singer Peter Sellers. These will combine with other unusual British and American 'pose slides' and effects from the 1910s to 1930s and similar visual surprises. The show will fill the theatre with colour, light and sound for a highly entertaining evening for delegates and public alike.

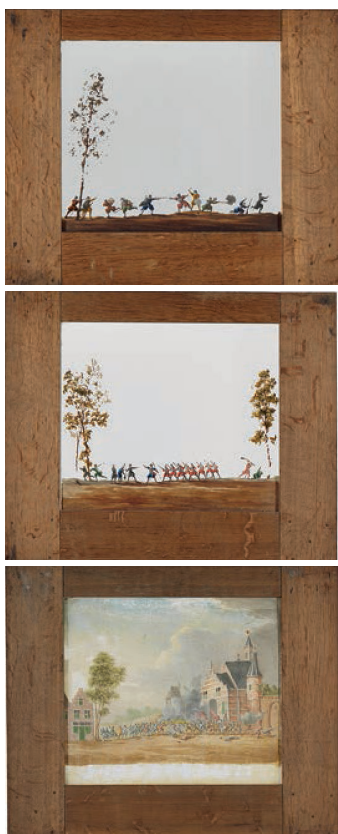


*The Raree Man in transit*

### ACT NOW!

If you have not yet booked and want to come to the convention, please do so now via the Members Area of the website ([www.magiclantern.org.uk](http://www.magiclantern.org.uk)).

We would also like members to spread the word to friends and family in the Birmingham area about *Magic and the Muse* – showing for one night only on Friday 28 April at 8pm. Tickets are £16 for non-delegates and available at the Crescent Theatre, 20 Sheepcote Street, Brindley Place B16 8AE (tel: 0121 643 5858). A unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help them understand your passion for magic lanterns!



## DIAFANORAMA RESEARCH PROJECT

A research project on the diafanorama plates in the Rijksmuseum collection is currently underway. This is a joint project with the University of Amsterdam leading to a thesis as part of a master's degree in conservation and restoration of cultural heritage at the University. The research phase will finish at the end of June this year.

Like magic lanterns, diafanoramas were instruments purely for visual entertainment. They were popular in Holland between the second half of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century. Diafanorama plates are cold-painted glass plates that usually come in sets of three. Each plate depicts the fore-, middle- or background of an image. The complete image was produced by viewing them together, placing each behind the other, which created a remarkable illusion of depth. The plates were designed to be viewed with a light source and a concave mirror – a so-called 'burning mirror' – that enlarged the image and enhanced the effect of depth.

Diafanoramas are quite rare objects and not many have been preserved. The Rijksmuseum Amsterdam has a wonderful collection of twenty-

one diafanorama plates, some of which can be admired in the permanent exhibition. Unfortunately, some of the plates have condition problems, paint delamination being the greatest concern. In order to restore and stabilise these beautiful objects, research needs to be carried out into the material composition of the plates and the causes of the problems. There are also questions to answer about the original operation of these objects, such as how the plates were used and what was the original set-up of the plates in combination with the light source and burning mirror. This thesis project will focus on these issues over the next few months.

In order to learn more about these intriguing objects, we would like to get in touch with any Magic Lantern Society members who have more knowledge about diafanoramas and/or who have one or more themselves. Information, ideas, suggestions or advice on the topic are very welcome!

Please contact: Noa Kollaard:  
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