



Joseph Grimaldi (1778–1837)

... an old coloured print published in 1778 by N. C. Goodnight, engraver, No. 14, Great Warner Street, Coldbath Fields, London. It is marked No. 45, and is one of a series, of which I have others. It represents the musical cat and dancing dog and six other subjects. The centre one occupies the whole length of the print, and shows a red, eight-arched bridge with 'London Bridge' above it, towards which a man, with a look of pain – face turned towards pursuers – is running, carrying on his right shoulder a representation of the

Monument, over which 'The Man Running Away with the Monument'. Closely following is a watchman with scroll from mouth in which 'I am out of breath I can run no more'. He is followed by a second watchman saying 'let him run ever so fast, I'll be up with him'. A third man is evidently someone of importance. He remarks, 'There he goes! Run hard man!' The last figure is a watchman, holding a lantern like his fellows. His expression seems to be the key to the riddle, and to refer to some person or act, evidently well known, 'Why the Monument is just a feather to him'. I think from this plate the idea of the Eastcheap model was taken.

It's not much of a stretch to suppose that an enterprising lantern slide manufacturer would have considered the subject matter ideally suited to the lantern. Especially since chases were a common theme for the long slide.

This may have happened immediately or possibly a little later, after the famous clown Joseph Grimaldi had further popularised the idea in the context of his comic song, which was specifically titled *A Man Ran Away with the Monument*. This song was first aired in the production *London or Harlequin and Time* at Sadler's Wells in 1813. The libretto was subsequently published in the *Vocal Magazine* (April 1815).

POSTSCRIPT

Following on from Grimaldi's endorsement, reference to the concept can now be found in various political squibs. In 1826 (17 April) for example the *Glasgow Herald* reported on a motion set before the House of Commons by the Hon. Member for Shropshire, Mr Cresset Pelham. His proposal was that occasionally the country's national parliament should be held in regional capitals such as Edinburgh and Dublin rather than London. To the columnist this placed the learned gentleman on a par with 'the man running away with the Monument'.

Later in 1830, when the Earl of Clarendon was appointed Lord Privy Seal, the *Blackburn Standard* (30 October) questioned his supposed merits. In so far as they believed he was a man of mediocre talents and fickle, to the extent that 'he is just as likely to run away with the Monument on his back, as to sustain the failing fortunes of the clique with whom he is, unfortunately for himself, about to enter into closer union'.

Comparisons were still being made in 1893. On 21 January *The Globe* newspaper reported that an attempt had been made by an American gentleman to buy the famous Panyer Stone. This bas-relief is an ancient seventeenth-century carved depiction of a small boy seated on a woosack or possibly pile of rope, which is set into a wall in the City of London. The American had offered a bribe to one of the men working on its restoration with an offer of £80 to let him have it. But the workman had refused and a guard was placed upon it. *The Globe* supposed that it was bound for the Chicago Exhibition and suggested that it ...

... would be as well to keep a careful look out for the next few months – our American cousins are quite capable of stealing the Monument or even Charing Cross Railway Station on behalf of their coming show.

Of course we still can't be a hundred per cent sure who first came up with the notion of stealing the Monument and putting it onto a lantern slide but it was clearly a popular recurring idea.

HERMAN BOLLAERT'S 'GOODBYE' SHOW

Gwen Sebus and Michael van de Leur

Herman Bollaert has certainly been a very prominent magic lanternist over the years – as you can read in *The Magic Lantern* Issue 3. His *Laterna Magica Galantee Show* is justly legendary among Magic Lantern Society members and many more admirers besides. When we learned that his last 'goodbye' shows were

Herman Bollaert and Annet Duller



taking place on Saturday 17 December and Sunday 18 December 2016, we rushed to Ghent, Belgium, to attend one of these two events.

Not surprisingly we met up there with other Magic Lantern Society members from France, Belgium and the Netherlands who did not want to miss this last opportunity either. The slides were projected by Herman and Annet Duller – Annet has been Herman's assistant or co-lanternist for a very long time. The show was accompanied by Herman's own orchestra.

We saw the famous *The Flies' Ball*, *Natural Phenomena*, *Pompeii*, *The Rock of Ages* and many more delights. Led by a singer from the orchestra we all sang along to Eileen Alannah at the end of a wonderful evening.

