

# MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

An MLS follower on Twitter spotted this magic lantern slide from the Library of Congress online archive. The title written on the wooden frame is 'Andy and his prime minister' and it depicts the USA's 17th



president, Andrew Johnson, having a drink with the devil. Judging from a contemporary engraving (left), it looks like a fairly accurate depiction! Johnson (1808-1875) was Abraham Lincoln's Vice President and became President (1865-1869) when Lincoln

was assassinated. Due to his handling of the post-Civil War situation he does not enjoy a very high reputation as President and narrowly avoided being impeached in 1868 over his dismissal of the Secretary of War, but he did purchase Alaska. The slide frame is 10 x 22cm and the strangely-shaped glass is hand painted. The slide looks decidedly homemade and comes from the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War photographs.



## AN INTERESTING CORRECTION

MLS member Allan Sutcliffe spotted that Fig. 6 of Philip Banham's article 'People We Meet on the Streets. Part 2' (TML 23, p.16) was not what it seemed. He writes:

"The photograph is of the English actress Jennie Lee in the part of Jo, the Crossing Sweeper, in the adaptation of Dickens's *Bleak House*, written by her husband, J.P. Burnett, and entitled *Jo*. It was performed for the first time at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool, on 8 November 1875. Although successful, the theatre was available for only one week. On 21 February 1876 the play opened at the Globe Theatre in London and was an outstanding success but, because of a prior booking of the Globe for another play, the production was transferred to the Royal Aquarium Theatre on 17 April. It returned to the Globe on 11 September and ran until 25 November. The play, and in particular Jennie Lee's portrayal of the crossing sweeper, attracted a great deal of publicity and many photographs of her in the part were published. The play continued to be popular in London and the provinces for more than 20 years. Jennie Lee died in 1930 at the age of 84.



Photograph in the article

"I have a number of *cartes de visite* and cabinet cards of Jennie Lee as Jo. Those that have information of the photographer/publisher name Elliott and Fry and I believe this photo is one of theirs. The success achieved by Jennie Lee and her husband encouraged other dramatists to write adaptations of *Bleak House*, and to feature the poor crossing sweeper prominently. They had various degrees of success but none matched Burnett's play. In addition, many music hall sketches featuring poor Jo were performed up until the First World War. I wonder whether these entertainments encouraged support for Dr Barnardo's cause."



This is part of the wonderful exhibition just finished in Canberra, Australia, *Martyn Jolly's Phantasmagoria of Magic Lanterns*. Martyn Jolly writes about it and supplies more photographs of what most of us missed, on page 7.

## DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only and confirm nearer the time, well before travelling.

### 2020

- 14-16 October
  - 29th International Panorama Council Conference, Bursa, Turkey (virtual meeting)
- 17 October
  - Autumn Meeting of the Magic Lantern Society Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham
- 30/31 October
  - Photographica and film, office antiques, science & technology, mechanical music, toys and automata Auction Team Breker
- 28 November
  - Special Pre-Christmas Meeting of the Magic Lantern Society, Swedenborg Hall, London
- 4-5 December
  - Projecting Pathos: Emotions and the magic lantern B-Magic, Cinematek, Brussels

### 2021

- 23 January
  - AGM of the Magic Lantern Society The Musical Museum, Brentford, London
- 17 April
  - Spring Meeting of the Magic Lantern Society Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham

### 2022

- 29 April to 1 May
  - 11th International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham (Please note new dates – postponed from April 2021)

## NEW MEMBERS

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Simon Lamoon</i>             | Ware, Hertfordshire, UK            |
| <i>David Weare</i>              | Stoke-on-Trent, UK                 |
| <i>Michael Jones</i>            | Sutton Coldfield, UK               |
| <i>Valerie Lettera-Spletzer</i> | Los Angeles, California, USA       |
| <i>Jane Clark</i>               | Hawthorn East, Victoria, Australia |
| <i>Camilla D'Antoine</i>        | Main Ridge, Victoria, Australia    |
| <i>Molly Briggs</i>             | Champaign, Illinois, USA           |