Glossary

Beard's Dissolving Carrier: A frame in which all slides are inserted from the same side. On pushing in a projecting handle, the oncoming slide is pushed in front of its predecessor, and being somewhat out of focus, it produces a blur on the screen. By withdrawing the handle, the slide just shown comes out, and simultaneously presses the new slide into its proper position and in focus.

Biunial Lantern: A double lantern made to work concentrically, usually in one piece; used for dissolving views. See also **Triunial Lantern.**

Camera Obscura: A darkened chamber into which light is admitted through a double convex lens, forming an image of external objects onto paper, glass, etc.

Choreutoscope: Illustrated optical laws of the persistence of vision.

Chromatrope: A magic lantern slide with two superimposed circular glass plates brilliantly coloured, one of which rotates in front of the other.

Cinematograph: A device by which a series of instantaneous still photographs of moving objects is projected onto a screen to produce the effect of continuous movement.

Cynnagraph: An apparatus with intermittent motion for exhibiting animated photographs. Made by Joseph Levi and Co.

Dissolver Tap: A tap so arranged what when the lever is upright, two lanterns both have a full supply of gas; when the lever is turned to the left, the lower lantern only is supplied; when turned to the right, the upper one is supplied with gas. The lantern also usually has two small stop cocks, fixed on vertical tubes near its centre, which by-pass the supply provided through the dissolver tap. For a triple lantern, a single dissolver tap would provide all the necessary combinations of position, but it was very much more complicated.

Graphic Telescope: Produces a virtual image with telescopic magnification. Patented in 1911 by Cornelius Varney: 'My said Invention consists in combining one or two reflecting surfaces with a simple kind of telescope that inverts the object, thereby gaining an erect image without any additional length of the telescope, placing the telescope out of the way of the image and apparently projecting the said image flat upon the table, so that it can easily be traced on paper.' The image is seen by one eye, the pen and pencil by the other.

Kaleidoscope: A Victorian parlour toy consisting of a barrel mounted on a stand – which in some cases was very ornately inlaid leather. Most kaleidoscopes have a method of turning the barrel to change the pattern; some also have individual bases for changing the objects to be viewed. The kaleidoscope was an ancient device, rediscovered by Sir David Brewster in 1817. A 'Treatise on the Kaleidoscope' appeared in 1819. See also **Polyscope** and **Tele Kaleidoscope.**

Kinora: Based on the 'flicker book' principle (1868) of creating the illusion of movement. Other versions include the Filoscope (patented by H.W. Short in 1898), and Casler's Mutoscope (What-the-butler-saw). A series of pictures produced by stop-motion photography is flicked over by a simple mechanical process relying on persistence of vision to show movement. The kinora is the parlour version of these machines. A library of reels could be purchased, and later, reels could be made from home cine film.

Lanternist's Lamp Glasses: A flat glass used at the end of the sheet iron enclosure of the lamp. It is sometimes curved for a few petroleum lamp models.

Limelight: The jet receives two gases – one part hydrogen mixed with two parts oxygen – and causes them to hit a surface of globular lime at a certain angle. The lime incandesces in this flame with a brilliant white light, which is then used for projection. The danger of this is that the lime could burn faster than the gas supply, thus burning back to the supply and igniting its bulk. Introduced by Lieutenant Drummond.

Megascope: A kind of **Camera Obscura** or magic lantern for throwing a magnified image onto a screen.

Peep Box: A brass and glass box with an inset convex lens which magnifies a display of small objects arranged at the discretion of the owner.

Peep Egg: A Victorian hollow egg-shaped alabaster souvenir with a convex lens inset. The egg contains two or three engraved or hand-painted scenes, or three-dimensional displays of shells, plants, or semi-precious stones. The convex lens and the translucent quality of the alabaster combine to create a three-dimensional effect.

Phantasmagoria: An exhibition of optical illusions produced chiefly by means of the magic lantern. First show was given in London in 1802.

Phenakistoscope: An early optical toy showing movement through the theory of persistence of vision. It consists of rotating hand-painted card strips viewed through a mirror. Joseph Plateau invented the phenakistoscope; S. Stampfer invented the stoboscope, in 1832.

Photorotoscope: A small screen showing animated photographs at one end of a covered compartment. A number of eye-pieces at the sides allow some twenty people to view the pictures at the same time.

Polyscope: Two angled mirrors which are adjustable to show kaleidoscopic designs. It is an open-table version of the **kaleidoscope** favoured by designers of textiles, wallpapers, etc.

Praxinoscope: A scientific toy resembling a **zoetrope,** in which the reflections of a series of pictures produce the impression of a moving object. Developed by Emile Reynaud in 1877.

Scientific Lantern: An instrument for obtaining two pictures of an object taken from slightly different points of view – corresponding to the positions of the two eyes. Also a single image which gives the impression of solidity or relief, as in ordinary vision.

Tele Kaleidoscope: This form of **kaleidoscope** was designed using the body of a hand telescope, with interchangeable sections in which various translucent objects could be placed to create a variety of patterns.

Thaumatrope: A 'turning wonder', scientific toy illustrating the persistence of vision. It consists of a card or disc with two different figures drawn on the two edges. These are apparently combined into one when the disc is rotated rapidly. Attributed to Dr. John Ayrton Paris, 1826.

Triunial Lantern: A triple lantern in seperate parts; the top lantern can often be removed. Used to add special effects to dissolving views.

Wollaston's Camera Lucida: A prism through which the user sees a virtual image of the object projected onto a surface placed beneath the prism. William Hydes Wollaston's **Camera Lucida** was patented in 1807.

Zoetrope: A mechanical toy consisting of a revolving cylinder, on the inner surface of which are the successive static positions of a moving object. The effect of motion is produced when the drum is rotated, the pictures being viewed through slits in the circumference. Invented in 1834 by W. Horner of Bristol, and known as the Daedalum; Desvignes patented the idea in 1860; and W.E. Lincoln gave it the name **Zoetrope** or **Wheel of Life** in 1867.

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The Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain

The society has been in existence for only fifteen months and has a small but steadily expanding and enthusiastic membership. National meetings are held quarterly with regional groups meeting more frequently. For information on the activities of the society and membership applications, please address all queries to the Honorary Secretary: Mike Smith, 'Newlynn', Nether Lane, Nutley, East Sussex.