

This book, dated 1756, was found by R.G. Morris, Chairman of the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain. The relevant chapters were translated from 18th century German by Peter Vernon. The book was bound in leather by Evans & Son, Wind Street, Swansea, Wales. Expressions not used in modern German are translated to give some meaning wherever possible. The book contains early wood engravings to illustrate parts of the text.



Bamberg, verlegt Martin Gößhardt,
Universitäts-Buchhändler. 1756.

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Arranged in two parts

by

F.G. Eyßvogel

Devoted admirer of natural arts
and sciences

The magic lantern belongs into the *Optica* (Latin) category and can therefore be called *Magicam* (Latin for magic) or witchcraft, particularly because of its 'supernatural' effects and ghostly apparitions. People who do not understand such arts consider it witchcraft. *Sturmius* called it *Megalographicam*, because small figures could be 'made' large so to say make an elephant out of a fly.

This invention which many people believed to be known to King Solomon, is attributed to an English monk *Rogerico Bacono*. This seems to be almost genuine claim. This 'machine' has therefore been in existence for some time and *Schwender* is the first person who collected facts and published a book under the title *Deliciae Mathematicae* (page 6, para 31).

The *Corpus* (Latin = body) of such lanterns is made of 'white tin', 'four-cornered', 8½ inches (German 'inches', 18th century) and 1½ feet high (German foot, 18th century). At the back is a reflector or concave mirror. Just below the centre of the diameter a lamp has to be placed. The wick must be of cotton and fairly thick to be able to use 'natural oil' or 'spirit'. The mirror can be moved under the lantern by means of a roller. In front is a 'round hole', three inches in diameter. To use this machine a straight 'tin tube' has to be put in front. Reflecting glasses are put into this tube to enlarge reflections of articles. Between the front part of the 'machine' and the tubes (with the 'said' glasses encased) a slit is left. Here one can push a glass slide or selent, to be able

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Die Magische Laterne.

Die Magische Laterne ist eine in der Optica gar gemeine Machine, welche man deswegen ohne allen Zweifel Magicam, oder Zauberisch nennt, wegen derselbigen übernatürlichen Wirkung und der Gespenster und entsetzlicher Ungeheuer, so man darmit vorstellig machen kan, und welches die Leute, so es nicht verstehen, vor Zauberey ansehen; Sturmius heisset sie Megalographicam, und zwar darum, weil sie kleine Figuren, so man darein thut, groß, und so zu sagen, aus einer Mücke einen Elephanten macht. Diese Erfindung, von welcher einige vorgeben, als ob sie dem Salomon bekannt gewesen, habe man einem Englischen Münch, Rogerico Bacono, zu danken, und welches am meisten wahr ist, so hat diese Machine eine gute Zeit viel Wesens in der Welt gemacht, und ist Schwender der erste gewesen, der die Zusammensetzung solcher in dem Buch, das er unter dem Titul *Deliciae Mathematicae*, heraus gegeben, p. 6. propos. 31. gewiesen.

Das Corpus solcher Laterne ist von weissen Blech, vierseitig, acht und einen halben Zoll tief, und anderthalb Fuß hoch, hinten ist ein Metallener Brenn-Spiegel, der 4. Zoll über den Diameter, und 5. Zoll tief mit einer Lampe, deren Docht von Baumwolle, und sehr dick seyn muss, darin man Baum-Öle oder Brantewein thut; Den Spiegel und Lampe kan man vermittelst eines Falzes, so unten an der Laterne ist, rücken, fornien an ist ein rundes Loch von drey Zoll,

15 Zoll,

to paint pictures in transparent paints on these. Three inches above the lamp are air holes (vents) through which the smoke can escape without 'darkening' the light. The light must be very bright to give better and more 'beautiful' effects. To use these lanterns one 'darkens' the room to be used. To 'perform' the 'spectacle' a white sheet is placed about 18 'paces' from the lantern to observe the 'gigantic' pictures.

PAIRS OF PUNS

