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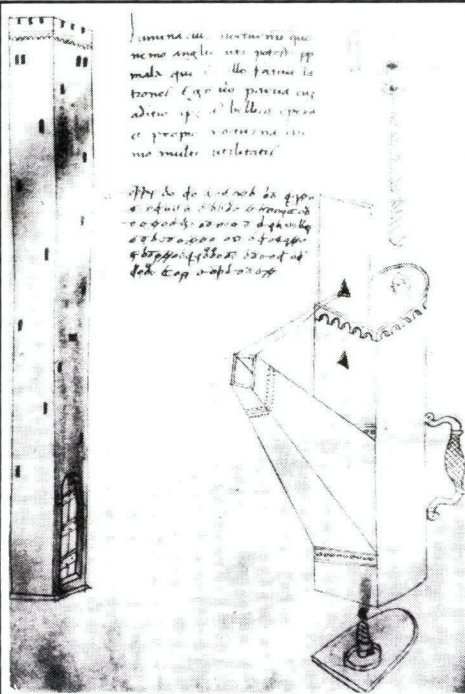
THE NEW MAGIC LANTERN JOURNAL

January 1981 — £1.50

Welcome once more to the *New Magic Lantern Journal*, the official magazine of the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain.

As set out in the editorial of the first issue our continuing policy is one of publishing both original research and historical reprints. In this issue the majority of our material is reprinted from old and generally almost unobtainable books and magazines on the magic lantern. For future issues we will particularly welcome reprint contributions concerning early scientific applications of the lantern and also anything useful on slide painting. Although relying principally on the Society's quarterly meetings for our original research contributions we would be particularly interested to hear from potential contributors whose private research is nearing publishable form. We are delighted to include a loose leaf announcement in this issue from Mike Smith, the treasurer of the Magic Lantern Society, concerning the possibility of reprinting the original *Optical Magic Lantern Journal* in its entirety. Being fortunate enough to own two bound volumes of the original journal the editor can testify as to the usefulness of Mike's proposal. We would advise all our readers to join us in subscribing to his proposition as the pages of that Victorian publication are complete in their coverage of both important and wonderfully trivial lantern matters. Whilst on the question of lantern journals we also note the appearance of our first rival publication, *Triple Lantern*. We feel sure that everybody will join us in wishing this new commercial venture the best of luck for 1981.

A tantalising reference, accompanied by lovely photographs of items from his own collection, has reached us from Monsieur W. Piasio of Switzerland concerning the origins of the lantern.



He refers to a publication of 1956 by Friedrich V. Zglinicki *Der Weg des Films* in which is contained an illustration of a purported magic lantern of 1420 by Giovanni Fontana. We reproduce a small version of the illustration here in the editorial. Having studied the illustration with Ron Morris in his copy of the 1956 book we are sceptical. However both he and I are the first to concede that our knowledge of anything that old is, to say the least, shaky. How fantastic it would be to find that dear old Kircher, or Huygens, were not the first to publish an illustration of a magic lantern but that it had all been done two hundred years previously. Can we ask all you serious scholars of the origins of the lantern for your observations please? We will reprint the illustration, plus a translation of the Latin text, and all observations received in the next issue of the *Journal*. How about it John Barnes and Dr. Wagenaar?

Amongst the more exciting events of what has been a memorable twelve months of collecting for Patricia and myself, has been the announcement of the first magic lantern congress, to be staged by the American Lantern Society at Rochester, New York, in August. Lets hope that this achieves the success it deserves and that it is only the first of many. How about a reciprocal event organised by the British for 1982

to coincide with the opening of the Science Museum's Bradford Department of Film and Photographic History? See you all in New York! Discussions are still continuing on the possibility of a major magic lantern exhibition at Bradford for the opening of the Science Museum there...more information when we have any. David Francis has been handling discussions on behalf of the Society and with his experience of conferences and museums the interests of the lanternist are certainly in good hands.

Finally a couple of sour notes. With the agreement of the Lantern Society Committee we have increased the price of the *Journal* to one pound fifty. Production costs have come so close to the discounted price at which we sell to our trade buyers as to make this increase a necessity. We hope that whilst both grumbling at the increase and yet delving into your pockets you will remember that the tiny size of our typeface means that we are really cramming a twenty four page journal into the sixteen you hold in your hands! Our second grumble concerns copyright. It has come to our notice that some of our pages have been copied and used by others for commercial gain without our permission. In order to protect the goodwill of our contributors, on whom we are entirely dependent and who may not wish their material to be used by others, we must remind all those who wish to use any of the original material, or photographs, that permission must first be obtained in writing from the editor. We should say that following discussion with the author in question we would normally hope that permission would be forthcoming.

P.S. Congratulations to Patricia Dugdale for the design and Dennis Crompton for the printing of the brilliant membership card — already a collectors' item!

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