

THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

A NEW LANTERNIST

Gwen Sebus



The new lanternist

Sarah Dellmann made her first public appearance as lanternist on 3 April 2016 during the series of 'Cultural Sundays' in the city of Utrecht. She had prepared – together with Frank Kessel – a 'mini lecture' on the use of magic lantern slides in university education. Under the heading *Projected Science*, they showed and discussed examples from the University Museum's collection of slides. Spectators could experience for themselves how, a century ago, scientists illustrated their lectures with the aid of magic lantern slides.

Subsequently, Sarah, assisted by Anja Goldschmidt, amazed the audience with beautiful photographic slides of Tibet and Mongolia, made by the Czech photographer Paul Popper. The University Museum being very cautious, Sarah was not allowed to use the original slides; however, the copies she had made proved to be of excellent quality. The show's musical accompaniment had been specially composed by music students from Utrecht.

For her debut as a lanternist, Sarah used the magic lantern that her (magic lantern) friends and colleagues had presented to her when she was awarded her PhD. The show was very well received – many of the audience stayed on after the performance and asked about the lantern, its history and how it works.



From the show

LANTERN AND SLIDE CATALOGUES WANTED FOR DIGITISATION!

A collaborative project 'A Million Pictures' – an initiative to digitise catalogues of lantern slide sellers, producers and retailers – is underway (<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/>). The Media History Digital Library (www.mediahistoryproject.org), a sub-collection of Internet Archive (www.archive.org), has agreed to host digital copies of the catalogues and make them publicly accessible. The first (German and Dutch) catalogues are online here:

- <https://archive.org/details/LichtbilderInWoodburyDruck1905Images>
- <https://archive.org/details/LiesegangProspekt4151910Images>
- <https://archive.org/details/MerkelbachBeeldengalerij1903>

Catalogues are invaluable for the identification of slides. Until now, there has been no single archive for storing this material and we are sure that collectors, archivists and researchers alike will benefit from one-stop access to catalogues of magic lanterns, lantern slides and/or accessories. If you can make yours available on the Media History Digital Library (MHDL), we would love to hear from you!

You can contribute in three ways. First, if you have already scanned a catalogue, you can send us the file as it is – we will convert it for MHDL. Even if it is already on your private website or published elsewhere, we would like to add the copy to MHDL. We are happy to link to the original website (see, for example, the third example)

Second, if you have just been waiting for such an initiative and now wish to start scanning material yourself, please save each page in a single file and send us the folder – that makes it easier for us. Please scan files at a minimum of 300 dpi and in tiff format as this works best for the character recognition software that will enable full-text search.

Third, if you have a hard copy of a catalogue but no scanning facilities and you happen to be near Utrecht, we can scan it for you. If you are prepared to risk sending the catalogue by post to the Netherlands we will return it once scanned using tracked mail. We will use a flatbed scanner for thin catalogues in good condition and arrange for a book scanner at the university library for thick and/or fragile material.

We are looking for catalogues in all languages and of all periods. Providers of catalogues will be credited or not, as you wish. Contact us if you have any questions about this digitising project! Best wishes from Utrecht – Sarah (s.dellmann@uu.nl) and Liselotte (e.c.c.westerterp@uu.nl).

DAVID ELSBURY 'BRISTOL AT HOME' MEETING

MLS members in the south west will again be holding an 'At Home' meeting in Bristol. This ever popular event will take place on Saturday 3 September at the usual location: All Saints Church of England Parish Church, Grove Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2BW. The hall will be open from 9.00am with presentations starting at 11.00am. The programme will be the usual ad hoc mix of items contributed by everyone on the day – even if some of it has been seen before! It does not have to be purely lantern related.

The day is relaxed and informal with tables available for anyone wishing to sell or display items. Proceedings will end at around 5.00pm, followed by an optional fish and chip supper. If you wish to attend please let Keith Utteridge know at the summer Bath meeting or contact him at keithutteridge@hotmail.com.

THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

All the 2015 issues of *The Magic Lantern Gazette* – the publication of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada – are now available online at <http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/digital/resources/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette>. This site contains all back issues from 1989 onwards.

DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only and confirm before travelling to any venue.

2016

23 July

Summer meeting

St Luke's Church Hall, Wellsway,

Bath BA2 2BD

3 September

David Elsbury 'Bristol at Home' meeting

All Saints Church, Bristol

6–9 October

2016 Convention of the Magic Lantern Society

of the US and Canada

New Orleans

22 October

Autumn meeting

The Birmingham and Midland Institute

Birmingham

27–29 October

Million Pictures Workshop 3:

'Fine-tuning criteria,

launch creative re-use projects'

Antwerp, Belgium

(<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl>)

2017

21 January

Annual General Meeting

The Musical Museum, Brentford, London

28–30 April

Tenth International Convention of the

Magic Lantern Society

Birmingham Midland Institute, Birmingham

Further information and booking details

in autumn 2016

NEW MEMBERS

Sjaak Boone

Voorburg, Netherlands

Thomas Weynants

Ronse, Belgium

Tim New

Gedney Hill, UK

ERRATUM

In Lester Smith's article 'The Provenance of Two Great Lanterns' (Number 6, page 14) the photographs of the two lanterns in question were printed the opposite way round from the description in the text – the top lantern was the Lears'. If anyone would like more information about these lanterns, please contact Lester at lester.smith@abbeyroad.com.