



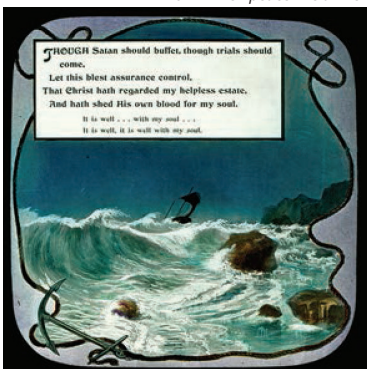
Annet at the lantern



Sarah (left) and Gwen (right) with the lantern



The prophet Elisha  
From 'When peace like a river'



## A MILLION PICTURES ON TOUR

Gwen Sebus

As most members know, *A Million Pictures: Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefacts in the Common European History of Learning* is a collaborative research project between researchers from Utrecht University (NL), University of Exeter (UK), University of Antwerp (BE), University of Girona (ES), University of Salamanca (ES) as well as twenty associated partners. Coordinator of this project is Sarah Dellmann. And what an amazing job she has done so far!

As I write she is organising the Conference in Utrecht at the end of August, but she is also travelling around to promote the Million Pictures project in The Netherlands and other countries. Last May she was in Amsterdam in the Eye Museum (the former Film museum) giving a short introduction to the Million Pictures project. And, of course, the best way to show how worthwhile it is to preserve this heritage of slides, is to have a magic lantern show. Annet Duller and Wim Bos gave a wonderful show using a biunial lantern to a room full of students, tourists and film enthusiasts. After the show many people gathered around Annet and Wim to see how the magic worked.

One week later Sarah was in Leiden at Het Erfgoedhuis, the archive for all the documents and images associated with the rich history of Leiden. This particular night all the museums in Leiden were open. After Sarah's talk, I showed old photographic

slides of Leiden in the small – and very red (as you can see in the photos) – lecture room until around midnight. Sarah told the international audience about the history of the photographic slide. Even the people from the Archive were amazed at the beauty of the projected slides. Watch out for other presentations – they are well worth catching.

People gather round afterwards



Leiden

## LANTERNISTS' TALES SONGS OF RAYS

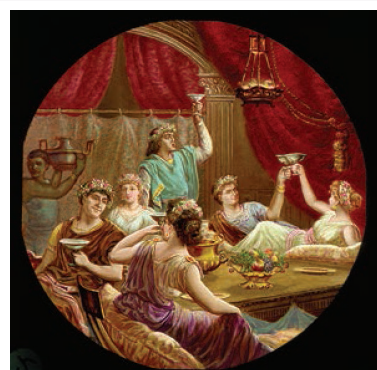
Mary Ann Auckland

In a moment of madness, George and I 'volunteered' to run a 'magic lantern service' at our local church – St Stephen's, West Ealing – as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1867. We had acquired a collection of slides from a church in north Scotland that we hoped, would provide sufficient hymns and bible stories to put a service together. As I co-run the youth group, we were able to bring in some willing helpers to sort out the slides – and this proved invaluable as no set was in the same box, let alone together or in order, among the 600 or more slides. They loved it and took part in the service.

The hymns in particular had been well used and needed extensive repair – or re-repair. The other problem was that many are not familiar to today's congregation. We also had some difficulty identifying the Old Testament slides where the labels were missing! However, we managed to find five hymns in reasonable condition (verse 1, understandably, was most problematic) that most of the congregation would know, with only one verse missing between them. These included a Graystone Bird set of 'We plough the fields and scatter'. We added a further one, 'When peace like a river (It is well with my soul)', that had a particularly beautiful set of images (York & Sons). Together with a Newton & Co set of the Prodigal Son, scenes from the gospels (various sets), Chinese missionary slides and some 'lifestyle messages' including Church Army temperance slides, we finally had a service!

The feedback from people of all ages was extraordinary. The quality, variety and vibrancy of the images were a real surprise to most. We may have made a few magic lantern converts!

Please let us know ([editor@magiclantern.org.uk](mailto:editor@magiclantern.org.uk)) about a show you have put on that was particularly memorable for some reason.



The Prodigal Son – 'riotous living'