

# MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this special edition of *The Magic Lantern* celebrating the role of women in the world of the magic lantern. Unfortunately – or fortunately – we received more articles than we can include in no.16 but we will feature them in the next edition. Speaking of which, please let us have your favourite Christmas slides, shows and stories in the next month or so.

The figurines here (right), also supplied by Mike Smith, are titled 'La Fillette au Moulin d'après Chardin' ('The girl with a windmill after Chardin') – even though the dominant feature is the magic lantern on the table! No painting or print of that title by the French painter Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin has been traced. The figurines are French, mid 19th century, by different makers.



## CIRCUS TIME

Dick Moore reminds us: "This year is the 250th anniversary of the birth of the 'Modern Circus' started by Capt. Philip Astley in 1768 at Half Penny Hatch, London. To honour this anniversary, individuals from all aspects of circus in the UK and Ireland created 'Circus250' which has developed and is coordinating over 350 circus-related events and exhibitions thought this anniversary year.

"One of the more exciting and unique events was a play – *Astley's Astounding Adventures* – presented at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, England. Written by Frazer Flinham and directed by Theresa Heskins, the play charts the combined journey of Capt. Astley and the Circus. I provided mechanical slide images from the early period of the circus that were used as scenery, but in a very unique fashion. The New Vic is a theatre in the round, so there was no backdrop for typical projection. What you will find at the link below is a demonstration of how they combined multiple mechanical moving images into a kaleidoscope effect of circus acts that were then projected down onto the round floor of the theatre for one of the major performance scenes." (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y45bye>)

## MERVYN HEARD AUCTION

Several MLS members gathered at SAS in Newbury on 16/17 July for the auction of the majority of Mervyn Heard's collection. Bidding was lively and the phantasmagoria items were particularly popular.



## OLD AND NEW TOGETHER

Monique Wezenberg has sent this photo, taken by Martin Gilbert, of her and Lester Smith at the last MLS meeting. If you're wondering what is going on, Lester was demonstrating a thaumatrope in front of his lantern and Monique filmed it on her phone – the old and modern ways of making a movie in one image! See page 15 for more about what went on at the Lacey Green meeting.

## RELIGIOUS SLIDES WANTED

Mary Borgo Ton writes: "I am looking for images of Carpenter & Westley's Scripture Slider no.1 for dissertation purposes. *The Companion to the Improved Phantasmagoria Lantern* describes a sequence of four images: Adam and Eve expelled from the garden, Hagar and Ishmael, Abraham offering Isaac, and Rebecca at the well. Are there members who would be willing to share photos with me?"

The David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, Scotland is looking to purchase scriptural slides made in the 1840s and 1850s to display alongside Livingstone's lantern. If members have items that would be of interest to the museum, please contact Natalie Milor" ([natalie.milor@dltrust.uk](mailto:natalie.milor@dltrust.uk))



What happens when you give women the vote? John Hyett has sent this outrageous slide from his collection, maker unknown, USA, titled 'The Triumph of Women's Rights'.

## DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only and confirm before travelling

### 2018

29 September  
Photographica and Film (including magic lanterns, optical toys, etc) Speciality Auction  
Auction Team Breker, Cologne

20 October  
Autumn meeting of the Magic Lantern Society  
Birmingham and Midland Institute

13 November 2018  
Second symposium, project *B-Magic*  
Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL),  
Mundaneum, Mons, Belgium

### 2019

26 January  
Magic Lantern Society AGM  
Musical Museum, Kew, London

27 April  
Spring meeting of the Magic Lantern Society  
Swedenborg House, London

## NEW MEMBERS

<i>Laird Kelly</i>	New York, USA
<i>Nigel and Lisa Ashby</i>	London, UK
<i>Bart Moens</i>	Wambeek, Belgium
<i>Gary and Claire White</i>	Cornwall, UK
<i>Leen Engelen</i>	Leuven, Belgium
<i>Jon Primrose</i>	Exeter, UK