



WINSTON CHURCHILL – MAGIC LANTERN LECTURER

Lindsay Lambert spotted this reproduction poster on eBay recently advertising Winston Churchill's lantern lecture 'The War as I Saw It' in Hull on 24 April 1901. The lecture was about Churchill's Boer War experiences when he was captured and made a daring escape. The previous autumn, in 1900, he had embarked on a hectic British lantern lecture tour on the same subject to fund his life as an MP. He was elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Oldham in October 1900 and took his seat in February 1901, but MPs did not receive a salary until 1911. According to a statement sent by the Lecture Agency Ltd at the end of November 1900, Churchill netted an astonishing £3,773 2s 7d (about £190,000 today). The US tour that followed was less financially successful. According to the Hull poster: 'The chair will be taken by Stanley Wilson Esq. MP. The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides from photos ... Lanternist, Mr Councillor Pybus.' As Lindsay says: "Churchill was not only a crucial wartime Prime Minister, great statesman, writer, painter in oils and bricklayer, he was also a Magic Lantern Lecturer!"