

THE FOUR SEASONS



Ally Sloper in a snowball fight. Maker unknown, UK, no later than 1891 (sold by Wright & Co, Bootle) (Dick Moore)

*I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.*

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), 'The Darkling Thrush'

We have arrived at 'Winter' in our series of images of the four seasons. Needless to say, snow features in nearly all. Even Ally Sloper is throwing snowballs. Churches covered in snow, people having fun on icy lakes or rivers and Christmas

celebrations are popular themes.

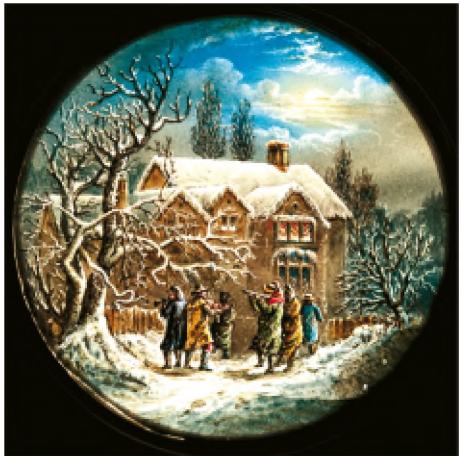
Martin Gilbert's December slide suggests a very merry Christmas dinner and dancing. Ditmar Bollaert's has a group of musicians with violin and trumpet outside a fine snow-clad house. The winter figure in his other slide is hard to identify and maybe personifies 'winter'. Thank you to everyone who has sent slides. This is the last season for most of the sets sent so if you want the series to continue, please send us more of your images to editor@magicleantern.org.uk, together with as much information as you have about the slides, such as maker, date, etc., or any story you have about the slides and how you showed them. It will be spring again next!



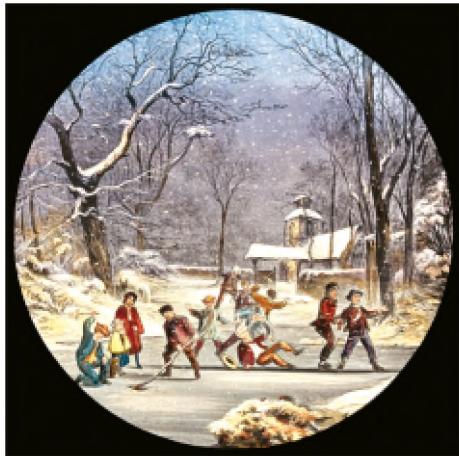
From a 'Four Seasons' set used at the Dickens Theatre in The Netherlands. No maker's name (Else Flim and Adrian Kok)



'January. New Years Day' – an unexpected sight from under the ice. From a set of the 12 months of the year, W.C. Hughes, London (Martin Gilbert)



'December. Xmas Day' – an excellent Christmas dinner. From a set of the 12 months of the year, W.C. Hughes, London (Martin Gilbert)



Playing on the ice. W.F. Archer, Liverpool, around 1880 (Mary Ann Auckland)