

FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Feltham

As you read this many of us are getting ready to go to Girona for our Spring Meeting. For those of you not able to attend, there will be a report in the next *TML*. We are looking into the possibility of holding more meetings outside the UK in future. We are also in the early stages of planning our 50th Anniversary Convention in 2026. We would love to hear from any members (especially new members) who would like to present at meetings on any magic lantern-related topic, even if it is only a 10-minute slot.

We also need help providing, or transporting, equipment, such as a biunial lantern, for our London meetings. If you are in the London area and can help, please get in touch with us.

My thoughts are with Dennis Crompton's family at this time, and I was honoured to attend his funeral. The recordings of our meetings, made by Dennis, allow us to continue to enjoy many great presentations given by members. His contribution to the Society through these and our publications will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Questions Answered

What are the options for illumination, and how can I get the lantern working quickly? I will discuss here basic incandescent lights, halogen and LED options.

This is a long-debated subject for lanternists. Most types of illuminant originally used with our lanterns are totally impractical now. Some form of modern electric light is needed to replace them. There are three available, each with its pros and cons.



Tungsten bulbs can be found in many lanterns, and give a warm light to the image. These are usually high wattage and produce significant heat which can cause serious damage to your slides.

Halogen bulbs have been widely used, especially for shows, as they give a strong white light for their size. But they too generate heat and are becoming increasingly harder to source.

LED is rapidly becoming the only viable light source that is readily available. The advantage of LED lights is that they do not generate nearly as much heat as other light sources. Another is that they are generally available in different colour temperatures, and a third that they are available in various sizes that will fit most lanterns. I am currently experimenting with 12-volt car headlight bulbs to see how they will work in a lantern.

Are there any 'classic' slides I should have in my collection?

As with classic albums, different people collect different genres, and no two collectors will have quite the same 'Holy Grail'. There are comic sets like *The Sweep and the Whitewasher*; life model sets such as *Jane Conquest* (often moral tales); sets based on famous books such as *Alice in Wonderland* and the works of Dickens; as well as many information/educational sets such as *Our Lifeboatmen*. Have a look at the *Lucerna* website (link from the MLS website) which lists thousands of sets. Those produced by a number of different manufacturers and with variations were the most popular subjects.

The best collections are those that reflect the owner's interests, and their style of presentation.