

Press Release

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Chance find on eBay leads to a major new research publication

The Optical Magic Lantern Journal and Photographic Enlarger 1889 to 1903 re-printed



The chance find on eBay by two collectors of a run of the very rare *Optical Magic Lantern Journal and Photographic Enlarger* (OMLJ) from 1889 to 1903 has resulted in them being digitised and made available on DVD. The issues, supplemented with copies from Oxford's Bodleian Library to complete the set, are reproduced in their entirety - including the original advertisements which were usually discarded when issues were bound.

The OMLJ was a British trade monthly first appearing in 1889 and had a remit covering the magic lantern and illumination through to photography and the world of early cinema. The publication only survives in a few national libraries and this limited edition DVD offers a rare opportunity for collectors, researchers, educational institutions and libraries to acquire a digitised run which is searchable electronically. The OMLJ covers a key period in the history of photography and the cinema. It appeared when the hand camera was rapidly being taken up by amateur photographers and at a point shortly before the motion picture camera was introduced. By the time of the OMLJ's demise in 1903 photography was widely practiced by amateurs and snapshotters and the cinema had evolved from its origins into a form of mass entertainment. The OMLJ through its editorial pages and advertisements charts these changes in detail.

The DVD provides a high-quality facsimile of all 5000 pages together with a searching tool supported by additional information around the personalities, companies and products that made up the industry at the time and which appears in the OMLJ pages.

The DVD *From Magic Lantern to Movies* (ISBN 978-0-9523011-1-0) is published on 15 October by PhotoResearch and costs £60 including UK and international airmail postage. It is designed to run on both Windows-based PCs and Apple Macs with Adobe Acrobat. Copies can be ordered from Mike Smith, South Park, Galphay Road, Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 3RX, UK, or email: lmh.smith@magiclanternsocy.demon.co.uk. An order form, the press release and a high-res image can be downloaded from: www.magiclantern.org.uk/omlj

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