



knowledge, with predictable results. Aileen Butler picked up the homemade theme with some charming photographic slides her father had made in the 1940s. These featured a very young Aileen herself. David Burder reflected the seasonal theme with specs that turned light sources into Halloween images.

The final show was presented by Pat and Ray Gilbert with Martin projecting on his triunial (as he had throughout the day for other shows). The subject was King George IV's coronation on 19 July 1821. This was a grand affair as the new king was determined to outdo Napoleon. The final cost was around £243k – or £20m in today's money. George himself was half an hour late. The procession went from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey on blue cloth. Ray had counted ninety-four participants in the procession on a 17-inch slipper slide.



At the front was Miss Fellowes, the herb-strewer, and her six maids. This presumably was a reflection on the ambient smells (including the people) – many flowers were scattered around too. Then we had musicians – fifes, drummers and trumpeters – Masters and Clerks in Chancery, the King's Chaplains, flag bearers, Dukes, Barons of the Cinque Ports, the King's Gentlemen Pensioners and, of course, the King himself in ostrich feathers, a Spanish hat, sumptuous clothing and a 27-foot train. We then saw seven slides featuring various aspects and persona at the event. These included the Royal, Hanover and Union standards, bishops, officers of state, the Lord Mayor of London and a second procession into the Hall with the King's Champion on a white horse, throwing down a gauntlet that nobody took up. The slides and the research were of an exceptionally high quality, bringing another enjoyable meeting to a royal conclusion.



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1. Homemade hand-coloured slides

## HOMEMADE SLIDES

Lester Smith

Many MLS members have come across homemade slides of various different types. Probably the most common are the messages scratched on blacked out slides – often about local events – and photographic slides. More unusual are hand-drawn and hand-coloured homemade slides (like Fig. 1) and, in particular, mechanical slides.

About twenty years ago I acquired an interesting collection of homemade slides. These come in several different sizes and all the frames are made from recycled metal boxes or cases (Fig. 2). The largest measures 11 x 8 inches with just a

2. Mechanical slides of various sizes



3. Largest in collection



4. Hand-coloured examples



5. Encapsulated example



2-inch diameter projection hole along one side. The single enclosed glass disc is turned by a simple built-in handle – one producing a series of eight different coloured balls, each with different coloured centres, and a second disc with a continuous pattern of clear spots, possibly designed to give an impression of a starry heaven or falling snow. However, the size of this slide raises a serious question about what the lantern looked like!

Slides in another series shown here measure 5.5 inches lengthwise and are mounted in fairly thick tin. The first ones (Fig. 4) are hand-coloured and show various subjects – people of the world, the natural world, landscapes and knights in combat (for some reason). Other subjects include historical characters. The second set (Fig. 5) comprise a leaf skeleton, dried grass, a feather, and various pieces of lace and netting. This could have been the white lace that Queen Victoria wore (see Birmingham report). Perhaps most intriguing is a chromatrope made from metal recycled from a 4d 'Coffee and Chicory' tin. I recently found that MLS member Sjur Dagestad from Norway had a mechanical see-saw slide made from exactly the same brand tin (Fig. 6)!

If any members have some unusual homemade slides – and especially if you know their back story – get in touch with the editor.

6. A curious coincidence!

