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## THE LAVERNE FIVE-WICK LAMP

*Lester Smith*

At the virtual meeting in April 2020 (see *TML* 23) I showed my five-wick oil lamp manufactured by A. Laverne & Co. This was advertised in their wholesale price list of 31 October 1889 (see *The Ten Year Book* (The Magic Lantern Society, 1986) p. 64) when they traded from 8 and 10 Rue de Malte, Paris. All the wicks are two inches (5cm) wide and the five-wick model is fitted with toughened glasses and a reflector. According to the price list, the five-wick lamp cost £1. A four-wick lamp cost 16s and a three-wick lamp 12s for best quality and 9s 8d for a simplified version. For comparison, on the same price list, a brass and mahogany biennial lantern cost £11 8s and a Russian iron lantern with four-wick lamp £2 18s.

The lamp has a trade mark stamped on it stating it is patented in both London and Berlin. The chimney can be extended and each wick has its own adjustment. The reflector includes a small circular blue glass window so you can see how well the lamp is burning and the wicks are in pristine condition. The reason for this is that the base of the lamp is wider than most lanterns – so I have never been able to try it out!

