

# MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

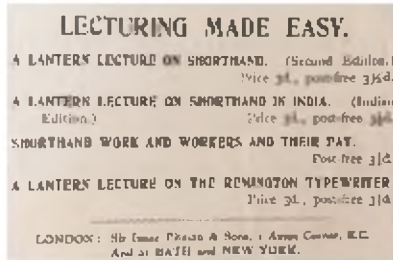
## THE RICHARD BALZER COLLECTION

Patricia Bellingier writes: "I thought you'd want to know the final disposition of Dick's fabulous pre-cinema collection. I am so happy to share with you that I have gifted the collection to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library. The collection will remain together, available for scholarly research at the Library and in rotating exhibits on display at the Museum in Los Angeles, California, which is set to open at the end of April 2021. A smaller gift also went to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Thank you to everyone who supported me in this process, who cared for Dick, who admired his collection, or all three. Special thanks to Pierre Patau and Babette Calley, without whom this gift would never have happened."

The Fall 2020 edition of *ARTNews* carried the story and the Museum press release (29 September) said: "Comprising more than 9,000 objects – including magic lanterns, magic lantern glass slides, prints, praxinoscopes, figurines, prints, peepshows, shadow puppets and theaters, and more, dating as far back as China's Ming Dynasty – the Balzer Collection provides the Academy Museum an unparalleled resource for telling the full story of the development of motion pictures."



Dick Balzer showing one of his peepshows at the US and Canada Society Convention 2014 in Boston



A follower on the Magic Lantern Society's Twitter feed asks if anyone knows whether any of the slides exist for these lectures on the Pitman Shorthand system of taking down dictation. If so, there may be an audience waiting for them! The image is from an advertisement in *Pitman's Shorthand Weekly* 1895.

## LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG REVISITED

Garry Scroop writes from Australia: "Back in 1982 a local TV station were doing an hour-long production called *The Adelaide Story*. At that time, we had been doing full biunial shows of dissolving views to audiences of up to 200 for some years and as part of their production they wanted to take a set from one of our shows. We were 'The Limelighters' and had a cast of about a dozen with singers and elocutionists and the occasional trio in addition to our standard accompanist. You will know the difficulty in photographing a show in progress, so the TV station did a special production around the Bamforth slide set *Love's Old Sweet Song*, with me on the biunial and my later wife, Janet Stephenson who was a professional soprano, providing the vocal. Some months ago, I came across the film section of that TV production which they sent to us at that time, so late last year I uploaded it onto YouTube (search 'Magic Lantern Show Garry Scroop'). See what you think. That was 1982 and now me being a double amputee and 82 and Janet 75, that sort of thing is past, but I still have the slide sets we used for different shows over the years. I also have one or two of the original printed programmes."

## VIRTUAL MEETING

If you haven't looked at all the shows in the October virtual meeting programme (see page 20), you are in for a treat. Go to the



'Events' section of the MLS website where you can see each separately. Here is a taster – two images of the 'characters' from Lester Smith's Dutch long slides, c.1750.

## A VILLAGE TREAT

Dr Margaret Lewis has been reading the history of her village, Humshaugh in Northumberland, north-east England, and came across an entry for 22 January 1875 reporting that the children at the village school had a treat given by Miss Clayton which involved "Magic Lantern, oranges and buns".

Where has Martin Gilbert been visiting recently? If you don't recognise this building that has an important place in magic lantern history and has recently been renovated, see the full story on page 13.



## DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only

### 2020

19 December

Virtual online Christmas meeting of the Magic Lantern Society – *details to be circulated*

### 2021

23 January

Virtual online Annual General Meeting of the Magic Lantern Society including presentations

Until 8 February

Fantasmagorie Exhibition, Musée Alsacien, Strasbourg

17 April

Spring meeting of the Magic Lantern Society Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham

### 2022

29 April to 1 May

Magic Lantern Society International Convention Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham

## NEW MEMBERS

Frank Hay

South Queensferry, UK

Elizabeth Fisher

London, UK

Gillian Fisher

London, UK

Henriette Cramer

San Francisco, USA

Toby Smeeton

London, UK

Andrew Haughton

Edinburgh, UK

Warren Vance

Mylor, South Australia

Joel Schlemowitz

Brooklyn, New York, USA

Chloe Eudaly

Portland, Oregon, USA

Jeltsje Stobbe

Amsterdam, Netherlands