

THE MAGIC LANTERN WITHIN

Everyone who saw the virtual MLS meeting in October (see p.20) will have spotted several candidates for this series – not least the cleverly adapted image (thanks to Frog Morris) that introduced every show. The original, below, is a slide in Martin Gilbert's collection. Called 'Le Singe qui Montre La Lanterne Magique' (the monkey that shows the magic lantern), this hand-painted



Our Covidly-safe monkey, thanks to Frog Morris!

French slide dates from around 1850/60 and appears to be based on the wood engraving by J.J. Grandville from *Fables de Florian* (c.1845) (left). The tale 'The Monkey with the Magic Lantern' is well worth reading.

During the same virtual meeting Lester Smith showed us some wonderful 18th- and early 19th-century long slides. This was one of the images on them of a travelling lanterist and hurdy-gurdy player – with animal theme! Lester has also sent us this image 'A Man with a Raree Show', a Carpenter & Westley 'Copper Plate Slider', no. 26 in the *Modern Costume* series. There were



56 sliders (as they are called) in the complete series available in 1850 – or possibly as early as 1832. Each slider comprised three or four round images of outlines taken from copper plate engravings and then hand painted. Each slider could be purchased for 4s 6d or £14 for all of them.