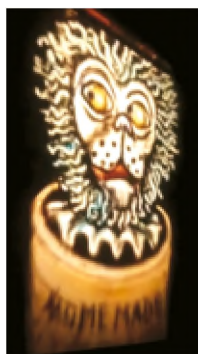


A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

On Saturday 30 October we went along to Pollocks Toy Museum in Scala Street/Whitfield Street, London, for a very special magic lantern show. While this small museum had been a favourite haunt when our children were young, more recently we have not had such a good excuse to visit – until Frog Morris and Nicole Mollett mentioned at the MLS Autumn Meeting that they were putting on a show there. In all they put on four shows – two on the Friday and two on the Saturday – as well as running a series of three workshops on the Thursday for people of all ages to make their own magic lantern slides.



Pollocks Toy Museum, on the corner of Scala and Whitfield Streets, London



Jack, the resident dog, being introduced in the show



The peripatetic show took us all around the small museum, up the narrow staircases and through the atmospheric rooms of toy treasures while every now and then we stopped for a magic lantern show. These brought the toys to life through Frog and Nicole's rich imagination. One stop was in the dolls' room where the audience at least tripled with the array of vintage dolls looking on intently as their imagined story was told. The popular star of the show was a canine called Jack who lived in a jam jar on the first floor ("dog-eared but well preserved" according to Frog). Like many of the slides Jack had been converted to magic lantern form or adapted by our creative presenters but they also projected vintage sets and some of the Museum's own collection of magic lantern slides. A small display of these is on the first floor, including some beautiful 'parade' slides. The audience with us (of all ages) were totally entranced by the show and all the performances were sold out. If they ever repeat this, we highly recommend booking early.

Mary Ann and George Auckland



Part of the show in an upstairs room, with Punch and Judy slides



Hard at work in one of the workshops



Frog projecting a finished slide for a proud artist