

THE DAGESTAD COLLECTION

Sjur Dagestad

In the last issue of *TML* (p. 2) I 'owned up' to the collection that a member asked about in 2014 as being mine. Here is a little more about it. The main focus of the

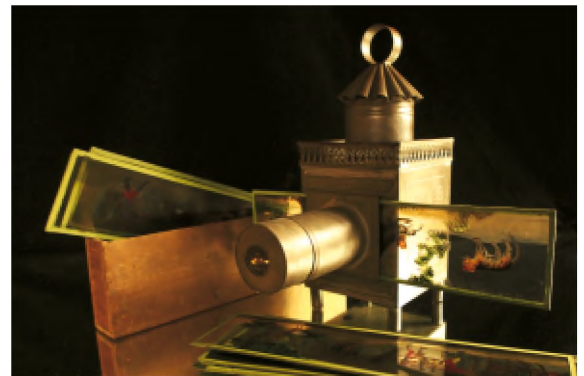


Biennial lantern with film projector

collection is on physical items such as magic lantern projectors, optical toys and early film projectors up to the start of World War 1 (there may be several post-1914 projectors that I couldn't resist...). In short, one could say that the first projection of film by the Lumière Brothers in 1895 is the kind of 'centre'. The collection consists of innovations and inventions leading up to the modern film projector in 1895 and also mechanical cinema artefacts from the first 20 years of modern cinema. Today the collection consists of around 400 projectors and optical devices.

I studied mechanical engineering in the 1980s and have worked as a professor in innovation for some years. This may explain my fascination for the mechanical side of projection and for innovation. The collection itself is located in Norway. Here are some highlights from it:

- The well-known 1671 edition of Athanasius Kircher's book – *Ars Magna Lucis et Umbrae* ('The Great Art of Light and Shadow') entered the collection two years ago. This is a beautiful book with the first print of a magic lantern. I also have a French book from 1693 with a print of a magic lantern that I never have seen elsewhere (M.L.L. de Vallemont, Pretre, et Docteur en Theologie, *La Physique Occulte ou Traite de la Baguette Divinatoire*, Amsterdam, 1693)
- About ten old German projectors from Nürnberg from the first half of the 19th century and a collection of slides for these projectors
- 14 biennials and also some side-by-side double magic lanterns
- Phantasmagoria lanterns and magic lanterns from Germany, France and England



Lanterne magique – Lapiere Carrée



Photo tints



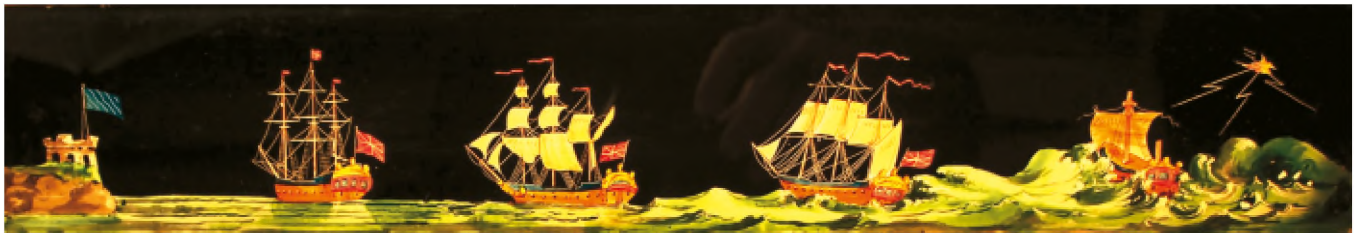
Rotofoto with two extra reels



Hand-held paper moving panorama – 'Fore's Grand Coronation Procession' produced in 1838

- Some pre-1910 projectors which I use for projection. They can easily run for another 700 years!
- The slide collection consists of 3,000 slides. Many are relatively common subjects but there are some more interesting highlights here too.
- Various Kinora models and film rolls
- 20mm Mirograph projector from 1900
- Centre-perforated 11mm films from, together with, five Vitak 11mm projectors (1902)
- A good collection of American 17.5mm projectors (around 1905)
- One of the earliest known Pathé KOK 28mm cine projectors (perfect condition) (1912). In 1912 Pathé introduced the home cinema (*Le Cinéma Chez Soi*) using 28mm film – literally one of the first in the world.

The dream is that one day the collection may be part of a museum. I am trying to build up the collection in the way a museum would do – historically important objects, unusual items for display, items for research, and so on. For this reason I am still interested in buying old projectors (18th and 19th century) and pre-1914 film projectors. In fact any invention that led to the modern film projector in 1895 is basically of interest. A small part of the collection is illustrated here but you can see many more at www.flickr.com/photos/laterna_magica/.



A British long slide