



Ally Sloper trying his hand at ice cream selling. Maker unknown, UK, no later than 1891 (sold by Wright & Co, Bootle) (Dick Moore)



Fishing can be a dangerous summer pastime. 'July. Dog Days' from a set of the 12 months of the year, W.C. Hughes, London (Martin Gilbert)



'Serpentine Day. Summer', maker unknown. (Mary Ann Auckland)

THE FOUR SEASONS

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.*
William Shakespeare, *Sonnet 18*

We have reached 'Summer' in our new series of images of the four seasons in magic lantern slides. The more traditional sets again focus on rural idylls, with haymaking a scene that appears in many sets, but popular pursuits such as fishing, boating and people strolling through the countryside also feature.

Once again Ally Sloper (top left) is doing something a little different – selling ice cream on the street. Else Flim sent the lovely slide with children playing in the newly cut hay (top right) and tells us that she purchased these slides from Mervyn Heard in 2017 not quite knowing how they would fit into a Dickens show. Then she realised that they would go into a Christmas show. She explains: "I ask 'Ladies and gentlemen, do you agree that the year 1869 went by so quickly?' I hear the audience think for a moment but then they all shout, 'Yes!' and I show all four seasons, ending with snow."

Ditmar Bollaert has sent the two images below that he remembers being in his late father Herman's galantee show. Is that perhaps Aestas, the Roman goddess of summer?

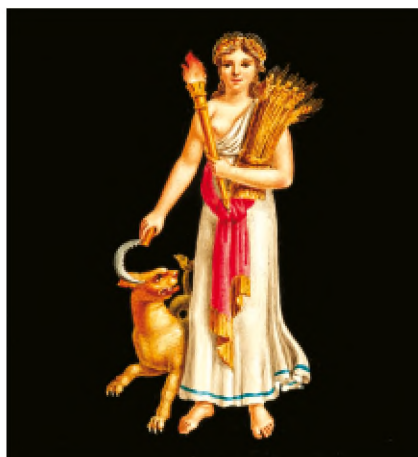
Please keep sending images to editor@magiclantern.org.uk, together with as much information as you have about the slides.



This is from a 'Four Seasons' set used in the Dickens Theatre in The Netherlands. No maker's name (Else Flim and Adrian Kok)



The dangers of 'skinny dipping'! 'August. Bank Holiday' from a set of the 12 months of the year, W.C. Hughes, London (Martin Gilbert)



These two slides were used in Herman Bollaert's Galantee Show. There are no makers' names or labels on the slides (Ditmar Bollaert)

