

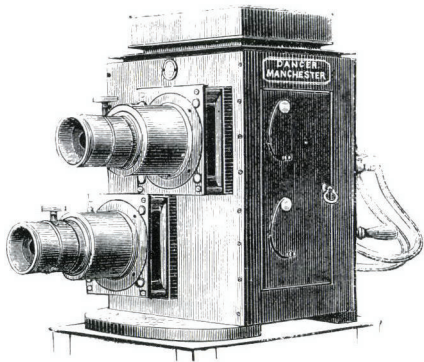
OBJECT/DOCUMENTATION:

We illustrate this lantern from the David Francis collection and quote its description from Chadwick's *The Magic Lantern Manual* of 1878.

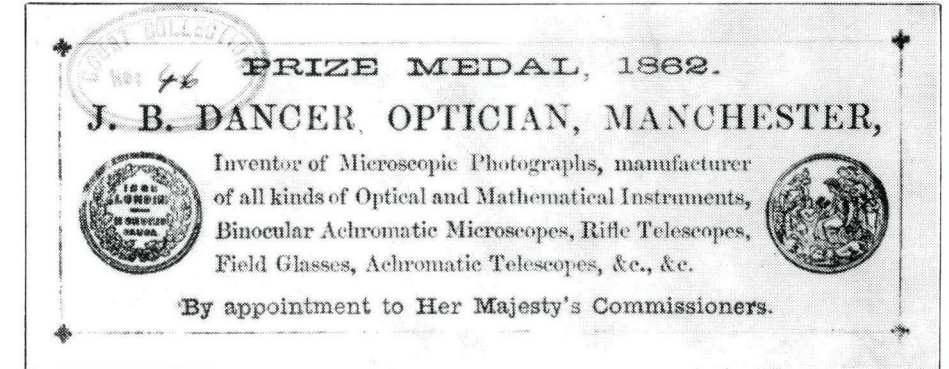
THE DANCER DOUBLE LANTERN

Science Museum

This lantern is one of the most perfect and high-class lanterns of the present day. Mr. Dancer, of Manchester, is an optician of high standing, and a gentleman to whom the scientific world is indebted for many valuable inventions. He was the first to produce micro-photographs. He was the first to apply the lime light to the lantern, and also the first who exhibited photographic transparencies in the lantern. He is also the inventor of the dissolving tap, and was the first to apply achromatic powers to the lantern, and also to use house gas direct from the main, with oxygen, to produce the lime light. From this we may conclude that he has devoted much time and attention to the development of the Lantern.



In his Lantern, one body combines in it the two optical systems, which are placed diagonally as shown. By this arrangement the axes are brought as near to each other as possible, still allowing ample room for the manipulation of the slides either horizontally or vertically, the latter being convenient for effects, such as balloon ascents, etc. The discs are brought concentric on the screen, by an adjusting screw brought through and arranged at the back of the lantern. The heat emanating from the lower jet in no way affects the upper one; no tall chimney is requisite, and a

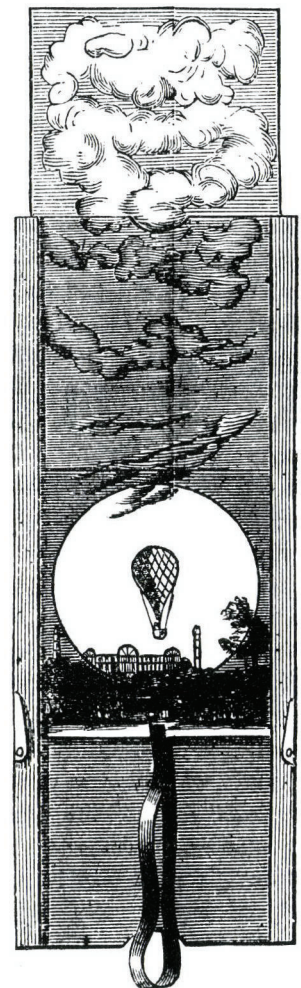


John Benjamin Dancer (1812-1887) started his Manchester business in 1841 – in partnership with W. Abraham – at 43 Cross Street.

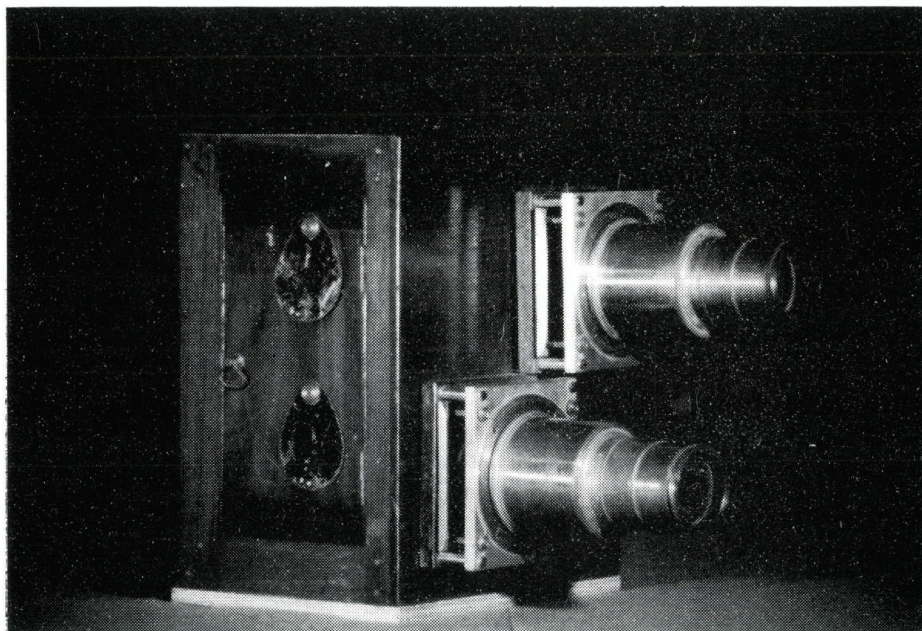
neat flat top is arranged so that no light can escape, while ample provision is made for the exit of the heated air, and perfect ventilation is secured.

The powers are of the highest class, fixed upon telescopic brass tubes, so that objectives of long or short focus can be used. The condensers are of the best construction, and are mounted with due regard to expansion, the mounts being provided with apertures through which any moisture may escape, the whole being fitted into the lantern and secured in its place by a bayonet joint. When required, this lantern can be fitted with an excellent and novel clockwork arrangement for giving to the limes a rotating also a vertical movement. The jets are of the best description, fitted with platinum points, and arranged either to burn mixed gases, as a safety blow-through, or for oxy-calcium. A dissolving tap is fixed at the back, with adjusting screws to regulate the supply of hydrogen in each lantern for maintaining a light when the oxygen is turned off, and the whole of the adjustments so arranged as to be within easy access to the operator, thus making a most complete and self-contained instrument.

The balloon ascent effect referred to here was achieved using the vertical panoramic slide shown. (From Samuel Highley's article 'The Magic Lantern' in *The Popular Recreator*, 1873-74)



David Francis collection



By 1885, when the second edition of Chadwick appeared, the Dancer lantern was past its prime. What had previously been 'one of the most perfect and high-class lanterns of the present day' became 'one of the most perfect of its day' – and its description was reduced to a single paragraph.