

WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I do hope you thoroughly enjoy our new publication. We have not made radical changes, though we have simplified the name for instance and you will see some other changes. We have started the numbering scheme afresh, so welcome to Number 1. The overall result is stylish, informative and of course entertaining. I would like to thank all those who have put a lot of thought and hard work into this publication. The plan is to make it work alongside our website and our other recent venture, 'New Light on Old Media', as well as our adventures with Twitter and Facebook. All our editors will work together to keep you, our members, well informed about the wonderful world of the magic lantern. So for now, my very best wishes and thanks to Gwen Sebus, Jeremy Brooker and the inestimable Dennis Crompton.

George Auckland, Chairman

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the Magic Lantern Society's new publication, *The Magic Lantern*, under the joint editorship of Gwen Sebus and Jeremy Brooker. With the growing popularity of our website and Twitter account, and the monthly e-letter 'New Light on Old Media', many aspects of the former *Newsletter* have been taken over by other means. It has therefore been decided that we focus all our energies on producing a single high-quality periodical, issued four times a year and in full colour. This remains first and foremost a publication aimed at Society members, but it is intended that after a period of perhaps one year past issues will be made available online. This will increase the circulation of our articles, furthering the wider aims of the Society and raising our profile amongst researchers and possible future members. It will also make publication by the Society more attractive to potential contributors, whose work will gain a larger audience, and so help us to maintain our reputation for original research of the highest quality.

Past readers will see much that is familiar from the former *Journal* and *Newsletter*: a scholarly article from Society member Bernd Scholtze on German toy lanterns (an aspect of lantern history unfamiliar to most members), a further look at some forgotten manufacturers of comic slipping slides from Lester Smith, meeting reports, and book reviews for *Screen Culture and the Social Question* and *Before the Movies*, and of course the usual welcome to new members and other Society announcements. There are also some new elements. First, there is the splendid design and new masthead from our own Dennis Crompton, whose expertise has done so much to enhance the reputation of the Society over many years. There is also one conspicuous new feature: 'Prominent Magic Lanternists', the first in a proposed series of in-depth interviews with leading figures in the lantern world. The magic lantern is historically important and the artefacts (slides, projectors etc.) are sometimes beautiful works of art in their own right, but this has always been and remains a performance medium. Lantern slides only come to life when viewed on a large screen, in darkness, with an audience; and in these conditions (with the performers all but invisible) the role of showmen and women is of paramount importance. We are particularly fortunate to have secured a delightful and insightful interview with Terry Borton, luminary amongst American magic lantern performers and well known as a member of both our own and the American and Canadian societies. We hope you will enjoy this first issue, and share our excitement at the prospect of many further editions in the years to come.

Gwen Sebus and Jeremy Brooker

THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

Erkki Huhtamo has launched his personal website (www.erkkihuhtamo.com). Erkki is a professor at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and is an internationally renowned media historian and theorist. He is also a member of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, and the site includes photographs showing part of his extensive collection.

Stephen Herbert has launched a new website (www.neverseenbooks.com). Although items are offered for sale, they are also scanned in full and archived on the site, and many rare books and other items can be viewed there. Stephen is a long-standing member of the Magic Lantern Society. He trained as a technician in visual media, working in education and film. He is currently a media historian and researcher, and museum consultant.

In collaboration with the Museu del Cinema, the University of Girona is organising its tenth seminar on the Origins and History of Cinema, to be held on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 April 2015. The theme is 'The Great War 1914-18: The First War in Images', and the organisers are inviting proposals from anyone who might like to present a paper.

William Friese-Greene is one of the people featured on a panel in the Bath Makers of History outdoor exhibition. See www.bathnes.gov.uk/events/history-makers-bath-exhibition.

A new book about the *vue d'optique* is available on line, free of charge, from the official site of Direction des Affaires Culturelles de la région Languedoc-Roussillon, with chapters by Society member Lorraine Aressey. It was issued in connection with the exhibition 'Le monde en perspective' in Montpellier, France, held at the castle of Flaugergues.

Society member Laura Zotti has lent part of her collection of French shadow theatre material connected to the famous Chat Noire for an exhibition in Paris called 'L'Esprit de Montmartre et l'Art moderne, 1875-1910'. The exhibition is at the Musée de Montmartre, 12 Rue Cortot, and runs from 17 October 2014 to 25 September 2015. See www.museedemontmartre.fr/expositions-temporaires.

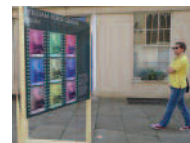
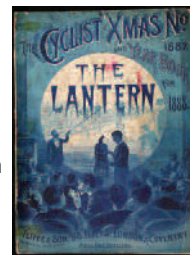


photo Michael Pritchard



NEW MEMBERS

Arthur Hovey (New York, USA) : Hadrien Vovard (Lamballe, France)

Karen Rouse (Welling, UK) : Paul French (Sunderland, UK)

Reg Hollands (St Leonards on Sea, UK) : Ron Easterday (Poulsbo, WA, USA)

Valentine Robert (Pully, Switzerland)

DIARY DATES

Dates are a guide only, confirm before travelling to any venue.

2014

30 November- 6 April 2015:
Exhibition 'Ik Zie, Ik Zie', over licht en illusies, ('I See, I See', about light and illusions)
Boerhaave Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands

11 December: Professor Heard's Lantern Show : 7.30pm
Highgate Cemetery, London, 7.30pm

21 December: Professor Heard's Christmas Lantern Show : Fox Talbot Museum, Lacock, times tbc

2015

24 January: Magic Lantern Society Annual General Meeting, The Musical Museum, London

25 April: Magic Lantern Society Spring Meeting
Swedenborg Society Hall, London

SALES AND WANTS

Daan Buddingh is looking for the following slides:- Napoleon in full action on a battlefield; a Christmas story; the story of Professor Hatterjack, an old teacher who falls asleep in his study. He then dreams of a hunt for two butterflies. When he wakes up he realises that these two are already in his collection. 0031-23 5407400. Email daan.buddingh@hetnet.nl

Henk Boelmans Kranenburg has an effect slide, probably two ships shooting at each other. Does anyone have the other slide(s) or know what they look like? Henk is also looking for a slide showing a chapel with snow, part of a dissolving set, probably by W.C. Hughes. Email henkbk@planet.nl.

