



Lantern slide by Frog Morris and Nicole Mollett

the invention of cinema. The focus of the talk was on Spiegel Motion Song Slides: ingenious moving slides on the principle of Rufus Seder's recent 'Scanimation' books. Mervyn also discussed other song slide rarities, some of which had a paper cut-out in the slide mask intended to create a spotlight for the singers during their performances!

Robin Palmer now returned to his wonderful triple lantern to present a programme of exquisite

slides of Switzerland by Edmund Wilkie, set to an appropriate Swiss-themed sound track – the William Tell Overture and, yes, a fair quantity of Alpine horns and yodelling. It was interesting to note that interspersed with Wilkie's own hand-painted images were commercially produced slides by Carpenter & Westley. Clearly, these marked changes of painting style within a single programme were quite acceptable to our Victorian forebears.

The day ended with a special treat from Juliette Harcourt in the guise of Mrs Zenobia Haskin-Davies. Singing a capella from the lantern, she led us through a series of familiar and unfamiliar song slides from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. This was Juliette's first formal presentation to the Society, and it is hoped it will prove to be the first of many. Congratulations, as always, to Lester Smith for devising such a varied and entertaining programme.

Jeremy Brooker



photos Gwen Sebus + Robin Palmer

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY at the CINEMATEK, BRUSSELS, 9-10 May 2015

This was one of the Society's occasional excursions outside the UK, this time as guests of the Cinematek in Brussels who generously hosted the event. Forty-two members and guests attended. Special thanks to Hilde Delabie who attended the meeting and made such efforts to make this a highly enjoyable and memorable weekend. Thanks also to Mike Smith who made all the arrangements.

One of the highlights was Bernd Scholze's unique set of slides once used by the German lanternist Professor Boettcher. Though his name is unfamiliar today, Boettcher was once described in the British press as 'the greatest lantern exhibitor in Europe'. Bernd was fortunate enough to acquire a large number of his hand-painted slides at auction, and he has since undertaken some fascinating research. The presentation was split into two parts and full of beautiful images, but perhaps the most remarkable were a set of slides first shown at the Royal Tragedy Theatre in Berlin in January 1871 to mark the birthday of Prince Friedrich Wilhelm.

The second item on the programme was a presentation by Roger Gonin. Sometimes, rare historical items fall into exactly the right hands, and this was a case in point. Roger discovered an ancient lantern once used by a Savoyard travelling lanternist, with five slides and lacking only its lenses. He has since embarked on an extraordinary voyage of discovery into a



Bernd Scholze

George Auckland introduces the meeting
Hilde Delabie at the Cinematek, Brussels

Roger Gonin

Savoyard Lantern

Slides by Professor Boettcher

Françoise Levie

photos Gwen Sebus



Pierre Levie

community and set of practices which by their nature leave only the most fleeting traces. This is truly remarkable research, and special mention must also be made of the exceptional audio-visual presentation that accompanied it.

We were next privileged to hear Françoise Levie talking about her late father, the filmmaker and lantern enthusiast Pierre Levie. Françoise shared

many memories, including her father's attempts to recreate Robertson's projections on smoke in the company of Janet and Mike Bartley at their magic lantern theatre in Monmouth. This was followed by a rare screening of the delightful 'Thank you Mr Robinson', an ingenious and fantastical narrative which brings in not only the Phantasmagoria but also the whole history of moving pictures.

On Sunday morning, we enjoyed a charming excursion to Holland in the company of Sarah Dellmann and Gwen Sebus. This presentation was based on Sarah's recent PhD research into the representation of 'Dutchness' through a very wide range of popular visual material including postcards, stereocards, magic lantern slides and an enormous range of other ephemeral material. She discussed the emergence and dissemination of various tropes (the obsession with cleanliness, the preponderance of traditional dress) as shown in several sets of photographic slides about the Netherlands. These shaped a widely held impression of the country and its people which persists even to the present day. She was ably assisted at the lantern by Gwen, who offered a seamless display of photographic slides drawn from her own collection.



A Visit to Holland
a guided tour by
Sarah & Gwen



Gwen Sebus and Sarah Dellmann at the lantern



Monique Wezenberg



Rome



Cinderella

The day ended in appropriate style with a splendid magic lantern show given single handed by the multitalented Monique Wezenberg. This was a delightful show full of charm and humour, and remarkable in that Monique managed all this, including the operation of her biennial lantern and recorded music, while delivering a continuous spoken narrative, which was not even in her first language.

After our chairman George Auckland had formally closed the meeting, a small party made an excursion to the Panorama at Waterloo.

Jeremy Brooker



THE MAGIC LANTERN is edited, designed and produced by Jeremy Brooker, Gwen Sebus and Dennis Crompton assisted by Annie Bridges.

Letters to the Editors can be sent by e-mail to: magiclantern@magiclantern.org.uk

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