

# THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

We thank our Chairman **George Auckland** and long-term committee member **Richard Rigby**, who will both be stepping down from the Committee at the AGM in January. Both will remain active within the Society. George will run the new publication 'Connect', which will be distributed to all members via email, and Richard will continue to share his expertise on lighting and other technical matters.

## CHROMATROPE HANDLES

John Finney has a limited supply of replica chromatrope handles with turned wooden knobs and metal cogs, available to order @ £20.00

## SOCIETY AUCTION

**Mark Reeve**, son of former Society member **Robert Reeve**, has donated a large number of photographic and transfer slides, some slipping slides and two binial lanterns to be auctioned to our members. All proceeds will be shared between the Magic Lantern Society and the MS Society. Further details will be announced through 'Connect'.

## THIS IS GOYA

Society member **Wendy Bird** has written a new book on Goya, published to coincide with the forthcoming exhibition at the National Gallery: [https://www.nationalgallery.co.uk/products/this-is-goya/p\\_1041583](https://www.nationalgallery.co.uk/products/this-is-goya/p_1041583). This is a generously illustrated and inexpensive art book written in an engaging style, and even has a reference to the magic lantern. The perfect Christmas gift?

## DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only and confirm before travelling to any venue.

2015/2016

8 October 2015–29 February 2016

Exhibition 'Ter leering ende vermaeck, de Toverlantaarn in Tetar', Museum Paul Tetar van Elven, Delft, The Netherlands, [www.Museumpaultetarvanelven.nl](http://www.Museumpaultetarvanelven.nl)  
Magic lanterns, magic lantern slides and optical toys (collection Nico's Tooverlaarnmuseum/Henk Boelmans Kranenburg)

10 December 2015–10 January 2016

Exhibition 'A Magic Christmas, Magic Lantern Slides in Hofwijck', Huijgens Museum Hofwijck, Voorburg, The Netherlands, [www.Hofwijck.nl](http://www.Hofwijck.nl)  
Magic Lantern Slides (collection Gwen Sebus)

2016

23 January

MLS Annual General Meeting  
The Musical Museum, 399 High Street  
Brentford, London TW8 ODU

30 April

Spring meeting  
Swedenborg Hall, 20–21 Bloomsbury Way,  
London WC1A 2TH

4 June

Grand Magic Lantern Meeting  
The Palace Cinema, Istock  
Contact John Finney for further information

## NEW MEMBERS

**Xinwei Zhu** London, UK  
**Patrice Guérin** Saintines, France  
**Maria Tortajada** Geneva, Switzerland  
**Adrian Fox** Woking, UK  
**Shalyn Claggett** Starkville, Mississippi, USA  
**Mark Sullivan** Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania, USA  
**Joe Kember** Exeter, UK

## ALMA-TADEMA AND LATERNA MAGICA

**Ivo Blom** (VU University, Amsterdam) is co-curator of a major exhibition on the Anglo-Dutch painter Lawrence Alma-Tadema, which will open in autumn 2016 at the Fries Museum, Leeuwarden (Netherlands) and then move on to Vienna and London. Ivo is keen to know more about lantern slides taken from Alma-Tadema's paintings, and depictions of Roman, Greek or Egyptian antiquity in general. He is particularly interested to know more about the following:

- Alma-Tadema's *Death of the Firstborn* used as slide 109 in the series 'Scenes from the Old Testament' (Newton & Co., 1912, 268 slides)
- Alma-Tadema's painting *Taught Their Children Thus*, slide 5 of the series 'An Old Story' (Wrench & Son, from/before 1888, 26 slides)
- the *Quo Vadis* series by La Bonne Presse (1909) or the one by Butcher (1913)
- the series *The Sign of the Cross* (Newton Co., 1912)
- *Ben-Hur: a Tale of the Christ*, series by Riley Brothers (1895)
- perhaps a series on *The Last Days of Pompeii*?
- any series on the real Pompeii and ancient Rome

Ivo Blom can be reached via email ([i.l.blom@vu.nl](mailto:i.l.blom@vu.nl)) or ordinary mail: Dr Ivo Blom, Comparative Arts & Media Studies, Faculty of Arts, VU University, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands. You can write in English, French, German, Italian or Dutch.

## FAVOURITE SLIDES *Nick Hiley*

I was going through my slides recently, and found some nice single images that might have a place in *The Magic Lantern*.

A slide showing three young men with their lantern apparently set up in a greenhouse, which I wouldn't think of as ideal for a show! The Riley Kineoptoscope film projector dates from 1896. The W.C. Hughes slide is a true lantern slide rather than a copy of a printed advert. 'No Shouting or Whistling', I like these warning notices – did audiences at lantern shows regularly shout and whistle?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BALLOONATICS OF BATH

Your slide of Hedges Butler on the back page rang a bell with me. HB had a shop in Regent Street at one time and I took in a copy of the slide. The obliging manager was interested, sat me down and rang a number, had a brief conversation and gave me the phone. I was talking to the woman in the slide, Vera Butler. She was very friendly and pleased to talk. At that time, the balloons were kept at the grounds of Short Brothers in Battersea. A phone call to them and your balloon would be ready to ascend in about two hours, inflated from the adjacent gas holder. The slide had belonged to John Bourne, a journalist who had made a circuit of Europe by airlines in the late twenties for *The Times*. After, he did the lecture circuit and used the slide set which he gave to me. I was working at the Metropolitan Theatre in Edgware Road at the time and one or two of the slides were included amongst the adverts projected during the interval. No one seemed to notice.

*John Alexander*

### MAGIC ALVIS

Society member **Tom Willcox** is also a member of the Alvis Register, the club for vintage Alvis enthusiasts. He contacted Peter Haye, editor of their Bulletin, who has written for permission to republish part of our recent interview with David Francis. He observes: 'The car was a 1928 TG 12/50 Cross & Ellis wide two-seater, registered RU 7054 and is currently owned by Register member E W Colvill. The passage of some 48 years may have dimmed Mr Francis's recollection of some details because the car would surely have had front-wheel brakes?'