



159. *Phantasmagoria and Polyorama. Phantasmagoria no. 2 with double lantern to produce polyoramic effects and dissolving views, 400 fr. Today, everyone is familiar with these recent applications of the phantasmagoria lantern. We know that the polyorama can reproduce transitions as seen in the diorama: sunlit views, moonlight effects. In the dissolving views, however, each picture is replaced by another quite different one: a forest scene at one moment, then a cityscape, and so on. The bizarre confusion and unexpected effects that arise are always very impressive, and sometimes very beautiful. Grand Polyorama No.4, fitted with lenses of 22 cm in diameter, 800 fr. Models No.2 and No.4 are lit by double wick lamps; they produce perfectly sharp images right to the edges, for a distance of up to 3 meters 50 for Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and 5 meters for No. 4 [...]*

173. *An apparatus for imitating falling snow, 15 fr.*

The Frenchman Noël Jean Lerebours (1761–1840) and his son Noël Marie Paymal Lerebours (1794–1855) were two important optical instrument manufacturers. The first was born in Normandy, but settled at the quai de l'Horloge in Paris in 1789. In 1804 he became the official supplier to the Emperor Napoleon. The catalogue he published in 1809 describes instruments for natural science, optics and mathematics, including 'ordinary magic lanterns', the 'painted glass slides for the lantern', the 'magic lanterns or improved phantasmascopes intended for phantasmagoria effects including megascope apparatus for solid and opaque subjects'. In 1844 Lerebours entered into partnership with Marc Secretan, who took over the workshops after Lerebours died in 1855.



*The Fantoscope filmed by Raoul Grimoin-Sanson in 1927*

Presently, there are three large Fantascopes stored in public collections worldwide:

- 1) At the International Museum of Media Arts in Doha, Qatar. Formerly in the Thomas Weynants collection. Dimensions: 1.80 m high x 60 cm wide x 104 cm deep. This example combines a megascope (for projecting opaque objects) and a Polyorama with interchangeable lenses.
- 2) The lycée de Girona (Spain) acquired a Fantoscope lantern with megascope in 1850–4. This has been exhibited at the Museu del Cinema of Girona since April 2014. Dimensions: 175 cm high x 65 cm wide x 83 cm deep. An inventory of scientific equipment for the school, published in 1861, mentions the lantern 'con Fantasmagoria busts 6 y 12 cuadros'. Unfortunately, neither the busts (for megascope projections) nor the slides have been found. (Information provided by Jordi Pons i Busquet, director of the Museu del Cinema.)
- 3) The Fantoscope attributed to Lerebours described here, acquired by the CNC, and put on deposit at the Cinémathèque Française. Dimensions: 2 m 30 height, 100 cm deep, 88 cm wide.

A Fantoscope-megascope belonging to the College of France was exhibited in Paris during the 1920s and filmed by Raoul Grimoin-Sanson in 1927, in connection with the opening of the 'cinema' section of the Museum of Arts and trades. Photographs taken at the time show that this was very large, but at present its whereabouts are unknown.

The three magnificent Fantascopes identified above all date from the mid-nineteenth century. Perhaps we will find more. But will we ever find the original Fantoscope and slides belonging to Robertson? The search goes on ...

*Lerebours et Secretan, Catalogue et prix des instruments d'optique, de physique, de chimie, de mathématiques, d'astronomie et de marine, qui se trouvent et s'exécutent dans les magasins et ateliers de Lerebours et Secretan, opticiens de l'Observatoire royal et de la marine, Paris, Lerebours et Secretan, 1846, p. 14–15. '*

*159. Fantasmagorie et Polyorama. Fantasmagorie n° 2, avec double appareil pour produire les effets polyoramiques et de dissolving views, 400 fr. Aujourd'hui tout le monde connaît ces nouvelles applications de la fantasmagorie. On sait que le polyorama a pour but de faire succéder, en passant par toutes les transitions comme dans le diorama : à une vue éclairée par le soleil, un effet de clair de lune. Les dissolving views, au contraire, font succéder à une vue un tableau qui en diffère essentiellement, ainsi : une forêt à un temps, une ville à une prairie, etc. Il résulte de cette bizarre confusion des effets inattendus toujours fort piquants et quelquefois fort beaux. Grand polyorama n° 4, muni de lentilles de 22 cm de diamètre, 800 fr. Les appareils 2 et 4 sont éclairés par des lampes à double mèche ; elles produisent des images parfaitement nettes et éclairées jusqu'aux bords, sur une étendue de 3 mètres 50 pour les n° 1, 2 et 3, et 5 mètres pour le n° 4. [...]*

*173. Appareil pour imiter la chute de la neige, 15 fr'*



*The Fantoscope from the Thomas Weynants Collection now in the International Museum of Media Arts, Doha, Qatar*

*Fantoscope in the Museu del Cinema of Girona*

