

# THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM, BRENTFORD  
SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2016

56 members and guests attended, 18 apologies

Jeremy Brooker

Meetings of the Magic Lantern Society offer many opportunities to see remarkable images, and on this occasion we were treated to two very rare screenings of lantern slides which are perhaps unique. In the first, **Helmut Waelde** showed some original anaglyphic slides by Max Skladanowsky from around 1902/3. Using 3D glasses, we saw scenes of Germany and London with remarkable clarity, the figures captured in a passing moment, forever suspended in time going about their everyday tasks. Skladanowsky was an important link between the worlds of film and the magic lantern. He was trained in photography, glass painting and optics, gave dissolving view entertainments from 1879 and presented the first



commercial film screening in November 1895 – a month before the Lumière brothers unveiled their Cinématographe to a paying audience. His Bioskop was a rather Heath Robinson affair, using dissolving view technology to project alternate frames from two synchronised spools of film. We are hoping to publish an article on Skladanowsky by **Bill Barnes** in a later edition of *The Magic Lantern*.



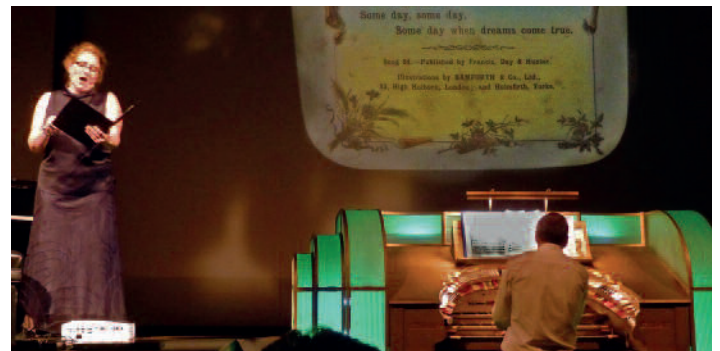
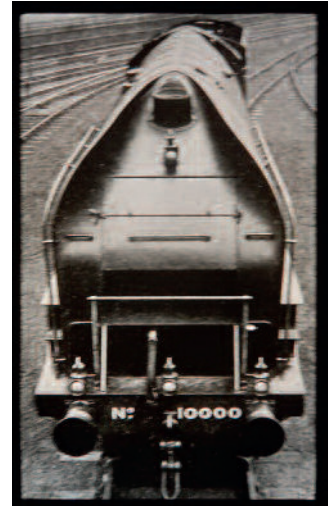
five years after the Polytechnic had closed its doors. He was then joined by **Jan Rigby**, who gave a specially prepared reading to accompany slides from the optical pantomime *Aladdin*, first seen at the Polytechnic at Christmas 1868. The programme ended in style with one of the Polytechnic's famous chromatropes, with a youthful portrait of Queen Victoria

The second rarity was a sequence of original large-format slides painted for the Royal Polytechnic Institution and now in the collection of **Lester Smith**. Using a giant projector and his own ingenious slide holders, Lester showed beautiful hand-painted scenes from Walter Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, first shown between March and August 1866 and mysteriously added to in 1886,



at its centre. Some of us were fortunate enough to have seen most of these slides at the 2009 Convention in the original theatre for which they were painted, but they were seen here to even greater advantage on the giant screen of the Musical Instrument Museum.

The **Bring and Show** brought the usual mix of eclectic items and announcements ranging from photographs of rare steam locomotives from **Robin Palmer** to a fantastical underwater panorama painted and presented by **Nicole Mollett** and **Frog Morris**. The day ended with a musical entertainment by resident organist Chris Barber and our own **Juliette Harcourt**, who satisfied a life-long ambition to rise majestically from beneath the stage on the platform of the mighty Wurlitzer. Song slides were provided by **Keith Uttridge**.



The 'Business' part of the meeting saw **George Auckland** step down from his role as Chairman. There was hearty applause for his years of loyal service to the Society. Your present Editor, **Jeremy Brooker**, has been duly elected in his place and it is therefore with some regret that I announce that I will no longer be editor of *The Magic Lantern*. It has been a great pleasure helping to establish our new flagship publication and I look forward to seeing its development in the coming years. The next couple of issues are already well in hand, so there will be a gradual transition over the next few months. In the meantime, please continue to send in new items, short or long, which you think might be of interest to other readers.

before... after!



*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](mailto:magiclantern@magiclantern.org.uk)

Material from this publication may not be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the Editors.

Printed by MPC for Dave Morgan

Published by:  
The Magic Lantern Society,  
South Park, Galphay Road, Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon,  
North Yorkshire HG4 3RX, England

Web site: [www.magiclantern.org.uk](http://www.magiclantern.org.uk)

© 2016 The Magic Lantern Society

ISSN 2057-3723

