

## OBITUARIES

### SIR GEORGE FREDERICK POLLOCK

Bt, MA, FRSA, HonFRPS, HonPAGB, MPAGB, EFIAP (1928–2016)

On 30 May 2016, one of the founder members of the Magic Lantern Society, Sir George Pollock, died at the age of 87. Born in Paris on 13 August 1928 to a French mother and British father, Sir Frederick Pollock, he was a leading exponent of audio visual work and a key figure in British photography for most of his life. However, he was educated at Eton and read Biology and Law at Trinity College, Cambridge, before practising as a solicitor for six years. He then 'retired' in 1963 to become an artist-photographer.

In 1962 he invented a method of making abstract colour photographs using controlled light, originally through glass, that he called 'Vitrographs' – partly in honour of Alvin Langdon Coburn's 'Vortographs', the world's first abstract photographs. The following year he devised a method of making large-scale photographic murals without losing print quality. His first of over 30 one-man shows was held in 1965 at New Vision Gallery, Marble Arch in London. He received many awards for his innovative work and pieces are held in international collections around the world.

Sir George was a President of the Royal Photographic Society (1978–80) and played a major part in its move from London to Bath. For eighteen years he was on the Slide-Sound Sequences (later Audio Visual) Panel and from 1969 performed 'visual concerts' with his wife Lady Doreen Pollock (d. 2012). These were visual interpretations of music and poetry with manual dissolves. These



Sir George at the MLS summer meeting 2012, © Edgar Gibbs

evolved into four 'Pollock's Pictorial Peepshows' using four projectors. They performed 166 shows all over Britain to around 52,000 people, ending in 2000 in Bath.

In 1976 Sir George took part in the inaugural meeting of the Magic Lantern Society on 23 October where he gave an audio visual presentation (with 35mm slides) on 'A Short History of Projection and Dissolving Views'. Many years later at the Bath summer meeting on 21 July 2012 (see photograph) he came as the guest of members Linda and Edgar Gibbs. They recall: 'Sir George's face beamed when the Chairman welcomed him as "one of the founder members" and he thoroughly enjoyed the day, subsequently rejoining the Society. We enjoyed being with Sir George, who insisted we had some wine with him over lunch – George's packed lunches were never complete without a bottle of wine which he would happily share. Cheers Sir George!'

### BERYL DIANA VOSBURGH

(née Roques) (1932–2016)



Beryl at an MLS summer meeting in Laycock (photo Thomas Weynants)

Sadly we have to report the death on 6 July 2016 of a second founding member of the Magic Lantern Society – Beryl Vosburgh. Many members will remember with great affection Beryl's diminutive Jubilee shop in Camden Passage, London, always full of magic lantern and photographic treasures as well as Beryl offering a warm welcome and generous guidance for beginners and experts alike. As readers of *The Magic Lantern* (issue 7) will know, magic lantern friendships were made there, collections started and lifelong obsessions born.

Beryl was born in Muswell Hill, north London, and attended RADA where she met Dick Vosburgh, the actor, writer, lyricist and broadcaster. They married in 1953 and lived in Islington together, until his death in 2007. Beryl and Dick had six children – five daughters and a son.

Following RADA she was immediately taken on by BBC radio for their series *The Younger Generation Under 20 Parade* – a magazine programme presented by young people for young people. Other BBC radio highlights included roles as Miss Phillips in *Mrs Dale's Diary* and as Princess February in *The Golden Cage* for Children's Hour. On TV she appeared in *No Hiding Place* and in 1965 joined the regular presenters of the popular BBC children's programme *Play School*. She presented

35 episodes alongside Eric Thompson, Derek Griffiths, Johnny Ball (Zoë's father) and Brian Cant. In 1979 she appeared in Yorkshire Television's *Secret Diaries* with her real-life daughter, the actress Tilly Vosburgh, playing that role in the production. The same year Beryl performed in a Jubilee show at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Beryl supported Dick's successful career across the media, including, for example, appearing in demo tapes for his musicals – such as *Windy City* and *A Saint She Ain't*. Beryl had another successful career as a professional photographer specialising in theatrical productions and taking the *Spotlight* images of countless high-profile actors and actresses. She was also a founding member of the Historical Group of the Royal Photographic Society, having joined in 1973. Beryl was a familiar presence at auctions of old photographic equipment and ephemera as well as magic lantern items, particularly slides. She has been much missed in recent years.

The Jubilee shop

