

BARON VON GRUMP AND DR SNOOZUM

Lester Smith

I recently came across this delightful cartoon of the *Adventures of Baron Von Grump*. The 14 illustrations are cut out from the original Wilhelm Busch uncoloured sheets, first published in 1861, and then hand coloured. The 'new' English storyline is handwritten in pen and ink. I realised that I have very similar magic lantern slides. My set of 12 slides is called *Dr Snoozum and the Fly*. When compared to the cartoon/original drawings, each slide contains quite a bit of extra detail. Here are five for direct comparison.



Slide 2, compare with Picture 4 (far left, second row down)



Slide 6, compare with Picture 6 (middle right, second row down)



Slide 10, compare with Picture 12 (left, fourth row down)



Slide 11, compare with Picture 13 (middle, fourth row down)



Slide 12, compare with Picture 14 'Finis' (right, fourth row down)

There are several other versions, with different titles, of this amusing sequence. York and Son produced a similar set called *The Death of the Bluebottle* and I have a rackwork slide called *The Sleepy Gardener* designed by F.F. Weeks – his name appears in 1mm high lettering around the edge of the revolving glass. In the rackwork slide the gardener's face shows eight different expressions of irritation caused by a bluebottle. On page 14 are four examples of the expressions, including the rackwork mechanism.



*Different expressions in the rackwork slide
The Sleepy Gardener*



I am also aware of a Choreutoscope called *Dr Snoozum and the Fly* that has six images (see below, courtesy of Laurent Mannoni of the Cinémathèque française).

