

AND THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE ...

The third annual Magic Lantern Society Awards once again saw a strong field of contenders for the Mervyn Heard and the Dick Balzer Awards. The judges (Drs Jeremy Brooker, Lydia Jakobs and Nicholas Hiley) were faced with tough decisions between inspired art projects, ground-breaking research in multiple languages and creative public performances. Here is what we decided.

The Mervyn Heard Award of £300 goes to Miguel Herrero Herrero for an amazing body of research completed within the last two years. It includes the first translation of the complete works of Étienne Gaspard Robertson into Spanish, produced in 2021 (see TML 28) in addition to a monograph on the art of raising ghosts titled *Nigromancia y Arqueología de los Medios*, which he published in 2020 (see TML 27). He is also directing an animated documentary, currently in development, on the *Art of Light and Shadow* – a comprehensive history of “the origins of cinema and audiovisual media from prehistory to the end of the 19th century”. Not only did Herrero prove his versatility as a researcher, his is the type of fundamental research that will enable Spanish researchers to deepen their understanding of the rich history of the magic lantern in that country.



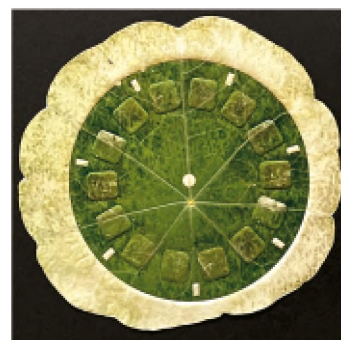
From Miguel Herrero Herrero's work

In the same category, researcher and lanternist Roger Gonin receives a special commendation of £150 for his proposal to translate his book *Ces Savoyards, Montreurs de Lanterne Magique* (see TML 8), currently available online in French, into English. Members might remember Roger from his inspiring talk at the 2015 Summer meeting in Brussels, where he presented his archival findings on the travelling lanternists from the Southern Alps – the familiar yet little researched 'savoyards'.

The Dick Balzer Award of £300 goes to the 'House of Mysteries', a monumental event dedicated to spiritualism and the magic lantern held in Ghent, Belgium, in April 2021 (see TML 27). This was a collaboration between researchers from the B-magic project, represented by Elisa Seghers, projectionist Ditmar Bollaert (son of the late Herman Bollaert) and artists Diederik Peeters, Luc Poppe and Nikolaas Martens. Held in the 'House of Mysteries', an “experiential theatre”, the event featured a ghost-raising magic lantern performance, an installation inspired by Pepper's Ghost and similar illusions, and an accompanying exhibition. The judges were persuaded in particular by the public aspect of the event that presented the lantern as part of Belgian cultural heritage (on the so-called *Erfgoeddag*) to visitors not yet familiar with this wondrous device. The event is available on YouTube.



The 'House of Mysteries' in Ghent, April 2021



Example of Nettie Edwards' work

A special commendation of £150 in the Dick Balzer Award category goes to artist Nettie Edwards who has repeatedly explored the connection between memory and photography in her work. She is dedicated to reviving historical photographic processes which use organic materials. Pictured here is an anatype, made with extracted plant pigments, and chlorophyll prints, which use the chlorophyll pigments inside leaves. Now Edwards has set her sights on the production of magic lantern slides with an ambitious project titled 'The Light of Other Days'. It will involve, among other things, building a repurposed magic lantern from scratch. Samples of her art can be seen at www.lumilyon.co.uk.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit their work and look forward to news about the ongoing projects. We strongly encourage unsuccessful applicants to keep going and perhaps submit their projects again next year.



Roger Gonin's book

Lydia Jakobs