

# MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD



## A BIT OF A PUZZLE

Lester Smith found this jigsaw puzzle of a lantern projection of the Chain Pier, Brighton, to some little children. The pier was opened in 1823, costing £28,000, and destroyed in a storm in 1896.

Much later Lester came across a black and white print of the same image with the heading 'Nister's Magic Lantern'. The man depicted would appear to be Ernest Nister (1842-1909) who built up a collection of Victorian children's books over many years, now kept in the British Library. This includes rare examples of 'pop-up' books and provides a glimpse into the world of Victorian children and the entertainment available to them.

## MORE ON SHADOWS

Following his article on Charles H. Bennett's shadows in *TML* 35, Dick Moore has uncovered more information. He writes: "As mentioned in the article, prior to the 1860 publication of the book *Shadows and Substance*, Bennett's images, with wood engravings by Joseph Swain, and prose by R.B. Brough, were issued in ten separate parts by William Kent (1858-1859). The covers were the same for each (right) except for the volume numbers and each contained three images with related prose. Further research has found that the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum in Exeter University has Volumes II (Slavey, Jack-Daw, Equestrian), III (Feline, Toady, Says All), IV (A Bird of Prey, Spooney, a Lion) and VII (Ape-ing the Fashion, A Pastoral Petticoat, Windbag) in their collection. My thanks to Dr Phil Wickham, Curator of the museum for providing this information."



## DIARY DATES

Please take these dates as a guide only

### 2023

14 October

Autumn Meeting of the Magic Lantern Society  
Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham

25 November, 26 November, 2 and 3 December,  
6 December

Shows by MLS members (see below left)

### 2024

20 January

AGM of the Magic Lantern Society  
The Musical Museum, Brentford

## NEW MEMBERS

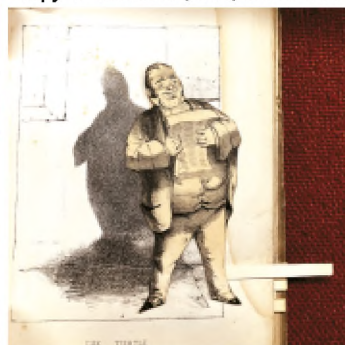
<i>Richard, Susan and Heidi Cunningham</i>	Cardiff, UK
<i>James Furnival</i>	Solihull, UK
<i>Alex Knutsen</i>	Hove, UK
<i>Zoe Toft</i>	Sutton Coldfield, UK
<i>Antonios Zavaliangos</i>	Princeton, New Jersey, USA

## STEPHEN HERBERT

Very sad news for many MLS members, our former long-serving research officer **Stephen Herbert** passed away on 3 September. He had been ill for some time but that did not prevent him from joining our meetings when he could and generously sharing his enormous expertise on magic lanterns, related topics and technologies, and early cinema – including in contributions to *TML*. There will be a tribute to Stephen in our next edition.



In another follow-up to Dick's article, at the Summer Meeting (see p. 15) Theresa Simkin revealed her and her late husband Mike's love of Charles Bennett's images and showed us two books they owned – an original copy of *Shadows* (1856) and a book published three years later, *Moveable Shadows for the People* by William Newman with animated versions of the Bennett illustrations (when you pull a paper tab the figure moves to reveal his or her shadow). The two artists both worked for *Punch* and would certainly have known each other but whether the second book was produced on friendly or 'rip off' terms, Theresa did not know.



Newman with animated versions of the Bennett illustrations (when you pull a paper tab the figure moves to reveal his or her shadow). The two artists both worked for *Punch* and would certainly have known each other but whether the second book was produced on friendly or 'rip off' terms, Theresa did not know.

Theresa with both books (far left) and inside the William Newman book (left) with tabs to move the figures and reveal their shadow. This is 'Turtle' (see *TML* 35 p.1)

## MAGIC LANTERN SEASON IS COMING SOON!

As the nights draw in, the traditional season for magic lantern shows is fast approaching. These are the shows that members have already told us about:

- **Trevor Beattie** – *Christmas Show*, 25 November at 6.00pm, St John the Baptist Church, Palmeira Square, Hove BN3 2BW
- **Sergi Buka** – *El Caçador d'imatges* ('The Image Hunter'), 26 November at 6.00pm, Cultural Center La Mercè de Girona, Catalonia (close to the Girona Cinema Museum)  
More information: [www.temporada-alta.com/en/programme](http://www.temporada-alta.com/en/programme) (see p. 11)
- **Alan Brindle** – *Christmas on HMS Warrior*, all day 2 and 3 December, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Victory Gate, Portsmouth PO1 3QX (see *TML* 34)
- **John Townsend** – *The Wonderful World of the Magic Lantern*, 6 December, Armit Museum, Rydal Road, Ambleside LA22 9BL

Watch out for more announcements in our e-letter *Connect* and for the date of the MLS Christmas Meeting on Zoom in December.

