

THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY VIDEO RECORDINGS ARCHIVE

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The MLS has been in the habit of making video recordings of our events for many years, initially for circulation to members on VHS tapes, then DVDs, and more recently online via our private YouTube channel. We now have about 250 videos available for members to watch online.

There are many 'treasures' and historically important performances. The first meeting recorded, by **Dennis and Daniel Crompton**, was our First International Convention in 1983. At present the only show available online from that event is *Lear's Magical Lanterns* by **Doug and Anita Lear**. At the time video cameras were not very sensitive so it has been hard work to extract a good quality copy and remove many of the technical blemishes, but the result is a unique record of one of the most important performances of the modern era of lantern shows.

More recent high-definition cameras and digital recording make things a little easier. For example, for last October's meeting at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (see *TML* 37) I have now been able to make most of the presentations available for members to view on YouTube.

How do you find a video? Fortunately we have an excellent online database created by **Richard Crangle**, which lists all the presentations from our past meetings with links to the online recordings where available. First, sign in to the MLS website (www.magiclantern.org.uk/membersarea) with your username and password.

Then select 'Past Events', from where you can search by performer, location, date and so on, and find those already on YouTube by choosing 'Online' in the 'Recording Format' option. Click on 'Full details of meeting' and the next page will show you a list of all the presentations that match your criteria and are available to watch.

The older videos were recorded on VHS tape so the picture quality is often modest, but the sound is usually more than adequate. I spend many hours reprocessing these old tapes to extract the best possible quality from them. If you are interested in this process, it will be the subject of an article in a future issue of *TML*.

Past events

All the events organised by the Society since 1976 are listed in our archive.

Most events since 1983 were recorded on videotape or DVD. We are gradually transferring these recordings online, as time and resources allow, making it possible for Society members to view shows and other presentations from some of the finest lantern performers of recent decades.

Past events – search

Choose any combination of criteria and then click the Search button at the bottom.

Year of event:

Type of event:

Venue:

Presenter: type any part of a presenter's name:

or choose from this list:

Recording format:

Recording available?

14 October 2023 – Autumn meeting

Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham, England

(PDF – opens in new window).

The agenda is that published before the event – the content on the day may have been slightly different.

Seven presentations from this event are available online – click the relevant or button below to view.

Douc Russell, "Stephen Herbert remembered"	YouTube	(24m 22s)
Richard Crangle, "The Pedlar's Lantern"		
Philippe Khazzaka, Gwen Sebba, Michael van de Leur and Dominique Santers, with Phill Henderson, "Holland and Flanders Send Compliments of the Season"	YouTube	(24m 26s)
Allen and Rene Marriott and Suzanne Higgins, "A Christmas Pudding Mixture"	YouTube	(32m 9s)
Andy Spencer, Michael Spencer and Zoe Toft, "Sutton Coldfield Across the Ages"	YouTube	(27m 36s)
Martin Eldbury, "A Shimmer in the Dark"		
Lester Smith, "Christmas Customs"	YouTube	(14m 2s)
Martin Gilbert, Frog Morris and Emily Douglas-Gilbert, "A Christmas Carol"	YouTube	(28m 46s)
Martin Gilbert, Frog Morris and Emily Douglas-Gilbert, "Magical Moments and Ringing Out the Old Year"	YouTube	(8m 20s)

Page views from the Society website