## 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.

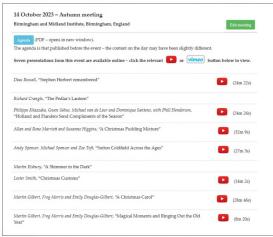
More recent high-definition cameras and digital recording make things a little easier. For example, for last October's meeting at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (see *TML* 37) I have now been able to make most of the presentations available for members to view on YouTube.

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*.





Page views from the Society website