

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE MAGIC LANTERN – MLS AWARDS 2024

Each year the Magic Lantern Society Awards reveal the extraordinary versatility of the magic lantern through a rich diversity of ideas and proposals. This year was no different. Any one of the entries would have been a worthy winner and, along with my fellow judges Ine van Dooren and Frog Morris, it has been a great pleasure reading them all.

After much deliberation, I can announce that the Dick Balzer Award has been awarded to Society member **Tonnvane Wiswell** to support her proposed adaptation of *Call of Cthulhu*, a short story by the American writer H.P. Lovecraft using a mix of old, repurposed and newly-commissioned slides. Tonnvane has previously worked with shadow theatre and puppetry but is new to the magic lantern, and looks forward to discussing and developing her ideas with other members of the Society.

The Mervyn Heard Award has gone to another recent recruit to the MLS, musicologist Dr Karen McAulay. Karen's work centres on the collection and dissemination of Scottish national music from the 18th to early 20th century. She would like to develop her research on the Glasgow publishers Bayley & Ferguson and their *Services of Song* with magic lantern slides, and hopes to share her discoveries through a future article in *The Magic Lantern*.

That's it for 2024 but why not have a go yourself in 2025? We know that the lantern is a passion for each one of you. Why not share your own story by telling us where your interests have taken you?

Jeremy Brooker



Title slide from Wee Davie (Service of Song, Bamforth & Co., 42 slides, 1899), courtesy of Nicholas Hiley Collection (see Lucerna, lucerna.exeter.ac.uk, item 5013495)