

The Magic Lantern



Early bird booking is now open at the website:

www.magiclantern.org.uk/convention2026/

Places are limited and we are expecting a high attendance, so don't delay!

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IT'S CONVENTION TIME – FOR OUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY!

9-11 October 2026

We are marking our Golden Anniversary with an International Convention like no other before it. We have booked two large spaces at the glamorous Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) in Birmingham, UK, to host presentations from around the world. These will include spectacular demonstrations of previously lost, hidden and restricted wonders, jaw-dropping new shows, an exhibition, intriguing new research, conviviality, celebration, camaraderie, the publication of the Society's latest book and, of course, our famous collector's market.

The programme is already truly exciting – we will be revealing some of the extraordinary attractions over the coming months in our new e-publication *Convention Connect*, which you should receive via your email inbox if you already receive the regular online *Connect* newsletter. Prepare to be awed.

One of the classic elements of any MLS Convention is its exhibition, and this time, there really can only be one theme: Fifty Glorious Years of the Magic Lantern Society itself. We will be exploring the Society's earliest years, all the way through to the most recent meeting (which will take place at Lacey Green this coming summer). The exhibition will include memorabilia from shows, collections, meetings and past Conventions alongside other, rather more eclectic material. We are keen to include stories from and about founder members, exciting discoveries, curious moments in Society history, friendships, excursions and achievements across the decades – and this is where YOU come in. We have some wonderful material, but we want to make the display the very best it can be. We are looking for exhibits, large and small, that will help us tell our own story, and we are open to ideas. Photographs, show programmes, ephemera, saucy tablemats (if you know, you know...); if you have something interesting to share, we want to know about it.

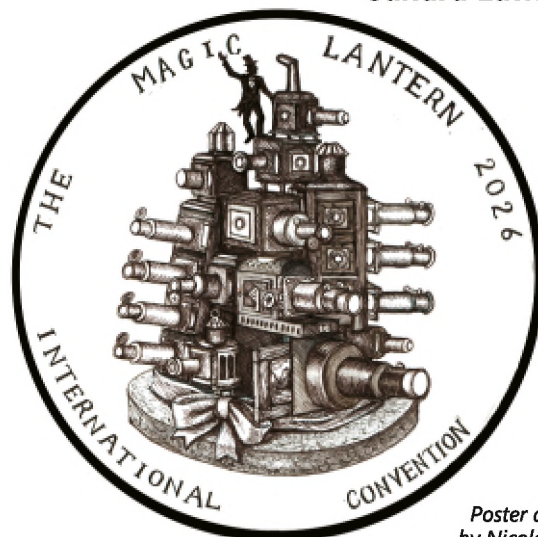
We will also welcome help in organising various aspects of the Convention itself. We have jobs large and small, so however much (or little) time you may have to spare, do get in touch if you would like to be part of the festivities.

The Midlands Arts Centre opens out onto leafy Cannon Hill Park, which is well worth a stroll in between events (or, if you're feeling sporty, a ride in a swan-shaped pedalo), but even if the weather is inclement, you will be able to enjoy its views through three walls of windows in the English Studio, which will act as our social hub between presentations. There, over refreshments, we will be able to chat, debate, and perhaps purchase a rarity or two from the famous collector's market. From lanterns to slides, optical toys to rare books, who knows what may turn up for sale...

If you are a vendor and plan to take a table for the duration of the Convention, these are available on a first-come-first served basis and should be booked in advance, at the same time as booking a ticket to the Convention.

Email: convention2026@magiclantern.org.uk

Sandra Lawrence



Poster and logo
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