

Call for Contributions:

SISTERS OF THE SILVER SLIDE: WOMEN AND THE MAGIC LANTERN

A planned publication by the Magic Lantern Society, to be published in 2028

The Magic Lantern Society's is planning another new book with a wide remit: the role of women in the magic lantern. If all goes to plan, publication in 2028 would coincide with the centenary of *The Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act 1928* that finally gave woman the vote on equal terms with men in the United Kingdom. For almost as long as lanterns have been around, women have been part of their story, but somewhere along the way that part has often been forgotten or, in some cases, obliterated. We are keen to bring women back into the canon, using a range of storytelling methods. From scholarly and semi-scholarly essays to features, articles or some other printed medium, we are keen to hear ideas for chapters and contributions that throw light on the myriad of roles that women have played – and indeed are still playing – in the magic lantern world.

Proposed chapters may be about any aspect of women and magic lanterns and may be of varying lengths, from 500 to 5,000 words, but they must all have one thing in common: they must be based on original, referenced research and/or thought.

At this stage the editorial team is looking for suggestions. These may be conceptual, historical, biographical – perhaps of prominent lanternists, inventors, performers, artists – or about other roles women may have played in the very earliest big screen story. Perhaps you would like to present an annotated slide set that helps illuminate the place women held in society at a certain period in history, or explore a particular issue via the way magic lantern shows portrayed it. Nothing is currently off the table, anything could be included if you can make a good argument for it. Help us shine a light on little-known areas of activity and expand our collective knowledge of women and the world of the magic lantern.

If you don't have specific ideas but would enjoy a new research project, we have a 'wish-list' of subjects we would like to include and you might be interested in taking one of them on.

Please email sisters@magiclantern.org.uk for further information and guidelines on how you can make suggestions and be involved.

Sandra Lawrence

Mary Ann Auckland writes: One possible candidate for a chapter in the new book is my great-grandmother Julia W. Henshaw (1868-1937) (see p. 15) who explored Vancouver Island and the Rocky Mountains in Canada. When she toured the UK with her magic lantern slides in 1913 and 1923/24 one reviewer remarked: "The marvellously grand scenery of the Rocky Mountains proved quite a revelation to a large Dundee audience last night when Mrs Henshaw lectured under the auspices of

the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. The lecture was illustrated by magnificent hand-coloured slides, most of which had been taken and coloured by the lecturer herself" (*Dundee Courier*).

Here are some examples including (from the left): a landscape with the tepees reflecting the mountains behind; two First Nations people by some rapids; Julia with a rifle (she was an excellent shot) at the base camp hut; and Julia with regular companion Swiss guide Edward Feuz.

