



www.magiclanternsociety.org

MAGIC LANTERNS

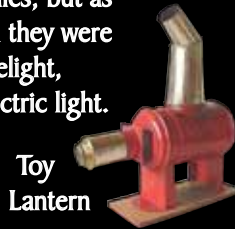
Frequently Asked Questions



Tri-unial Lantern 1890's

What is a Magic Lantern?

Introduced in the 1600's, the magic lantern was the earliest form of slide projector and has a long and fascinating history. The first magic lanterns were illuminated by candles, but as technology evolved they were lit by kerosene, limelight, carbon arc, and electric light.



Toy Lantern

What was entertaining about the slides?

The heyday of the magic lantern in the US and elsewhere was mid-to-late 19th C. For audiences that had never seen a movie, watched tv, or experienced the internet, projected slides were a wonder. Slides were often dramatic, detailed, and colorful.



Slip slide animated sequence

What type of images did they project?

The first lantern slides were hand-painted on glass and projected on walls and cloth screens. Some were even rear projected, hiding the projectionist from his audience. By the mid-19th century, black and white lantern slides were produced photographically. Popular images included travel scenes, dramatic story slides, moral tales, song slides, religious and patriotic themes, and comic pictures. Until movies came along around the turn-of-the-century, magic lanterns were the only existing projection device.



Advertising Slides



Coming Attraction Slide



Bud's Garage



Announcement Slide



Chromatrope (movable slide)

Where were there other firsts with the Magic Lantern?

The great granddaddy of musical videos was a form of professional entertainment known as the "illustrated song". A phenomenon native to music halls, dime museums, vaudeville, and the early silent movies, the song play, as it was billed in places with pretensions, enjoyed a brief but unforgettable craze during the first dozen years of the 20th century. From twelve to sixteen hand-colored, glass photo slides were usually required to illustrate a song, one for each line of lyric. Two additional slides completed a set: one a reproduction of the sheet-music cover; the other containing nothing but the printed words of the chorus over which appeared in bold-faced type, "All Join In The Chorus."



Ragtime Ball



Mello Cello

Want to be in touch with others who are interested in collecting?

See the back of this page for contact information and an application for membership to the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada.

www.magiclanternsociety.org



Benefits of Joining

An annual Membership Booklet listing all members and contact information, including interests such as types of lanterns, slides, literature, kinetic devices and vintage cinema. Members that give shows and those interested in buying, selling or trading magic lantern materials are noted.

The Magic Lantern Gazette is mailed four times a year to all members. The Gazette publishes original research articles and news items related to the history and culture of the magic lantern, magic lantern collecting, and related topics. Articles are profusely illustrated with photographs including four color

pages. An index of past articles is available to members; the Society has issued publications since 1979 on the history, collecting, showmanship, and restoration of magic lanterns and magic lantern slides.

You receive the E-Publication, a monthly newsletter that contains any material that relates to the lantern and its use. Its purpose is to provide a publication for members to share information about upcoming events, items of interest and For Sale/Wanted items.

*Please copy or use this page and mail to:

Magic Lantern Society United States & Canada©
Secretary-Treasurer Ron Easterday
20382 12th Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370 USA

Annual Dues:

- First Year: US \$50.00
- Renewal: US \$50.00
- Student: US \$25.00



dues via PayPal to: secretary-treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org
Or mail your dues check or money order in \$ US with your application

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code/Zip: _____

Country: _____

Occupation: _____

Preferred Contact Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Check Items Of Interest:

Lanterns (type) _____

Slides (type) _____

Literature (Subject) _____

Kinetic Devices (type) _____

Vintage Cinema (Type) _____

Give Lantern Shows (yes no plan to do so)

Will: Buy Sell Trade