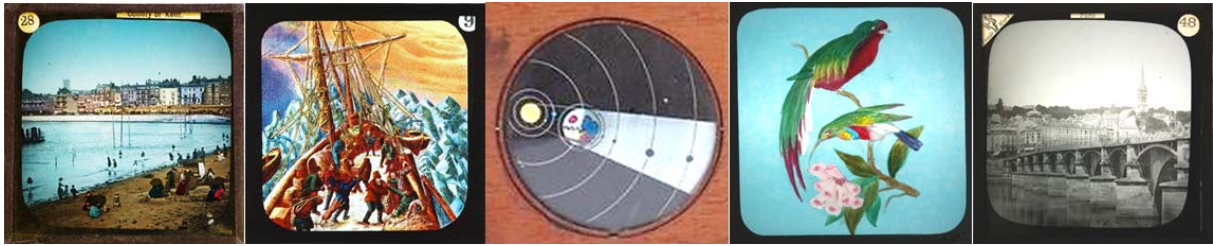


# ***A Million Pictures***



## ***Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefacts in the Common European History of Learning***

### **Newsletter # 08 | February 2017**

As last January, 2017 started with writing the yearly report to our funders, the coordination of the “Joint Programming Initiative in Cultural Heritage” by the European Commission. Pulling all the information together was also a good moment to look back on the achievements of 2016: we shared our experience in public lectures and at academic conferences, we digitised and uploaded more than 7,000 lantern slides together with our partners in museums and archives and we discovered new ways of (re-)using the historical material through our collaboration with artists and practitioners. In the course of one year, the number of subscribers to this newsletter doubled and with only one year and a few months to go in the project, we are thinking harder about how to continue our work when the project funding comes to its end. Fortunately, this is not the only task we have scheduled for 2017 but we continue with our work: *A Million Pictures* will be present at the [11th International Seminar on the Origins and History of Cinema](#) in Girona (30/31 March), at the [10<sup>th</sup> Magic Lantern Convention](#) in Birmingham (28-30 of April) and we will also be the host of what promises to be a fascinating conference for lantern researchers, practitioners, curators, artists and archivists in Utrecht (29 August-1 September, see also page 3). Quite some public lectures and local activities are planned, so check out our website for activities in your neighbourhood! We are looking forward to another year of collaboration!

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## From the Project Coordination

We are looking for stories about your favourite lantern slide for the newsletter! Just send an image of your favourite slide and some notes about why this lantern slide is special to you!



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Short notes, images, articles, questions, requests, comments on this newsletter and more are highly welcomed! Please send them per e-mail to Sarah Dellmann: s.dellmann [at] uu.nl  
Any items for the next newsletter should be submitted by

**27 March 2017**

## Conference News

The call for contributions is now officially closed – we received 39 submissions from 14 countries in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia! The programme committee now evaluates the proposals.

We are still open to receive **proposals for poster presentations** as well as artistic interventions, demonstrations of artistic and experimental forms of engaging with the objects.

We also still welcome **videos that document examples of creative re-use** in one way or the other. These videos will be compiled to a DVD and handed out to conference participants. If you wish to contribute a video, please contact us!

We are happy to share the good news that our application for supplementary conference **funding from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)** was successful! The additional funds allow us to offer conference fee waivers and (partial) refund of travel costs for participants with limited or no access to travel funds.



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E  
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

The conference will take place one week before the academic year starts, and Utrecht will be very busy.

**We very strongly advise you to book your accommodation as soon as possible, especially if you are looking for budget options.**

Utrecht does not have as many hotels in relation to the demand and it is high tourist season. We negotiated special offers with two hotels which you can find at our website. See:

<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/conference/accomodation/>



## Project News

The **Lichtbeelden Project** (“project lantern slides”) of the Dutch Stichting Academisch Erfgoed (Society for Academic Heritage) has inventoried the scale and scope of slide collections in university archives and libraries in the Netherlands. The organization plans a project to make the existence of lantern slides in university collections better known to researchers, museum curators and the interested public

<https://www.academischerfgoed.nl/projecten/lichtbeelden-project/>

We look forward to expand our collaboration with SAE!



*A Million Pictures* will be present at the meeting of all projects at the **JPI Parade Brussels** (20/21 February). The parade will provide opportunities for exchange between current European projects in Cultural Heritage, funded via the “Joint Programming Initiative of Cultural Heritage”. We look forward to two days of exchange!

The materiality of photographic images is increasingly discussed in the field of art history and history of photography.

*A Million Pictures* got in contact with the collaborative research project “Photo-Objects – Photographs as (Research) Objects in Archaeology, Ethnology and Art History”. The project holds an **international conference “Photo-Objects. On the Materiality of**

**Photographs and Photo-Archives in the Humanities and Sciences”** from 15-17 February 2017 in Florence (IT). See for the full programme

<http://www.khi.fi.it/5452599/20170215-photo-objekte>



Stichting Academisch Erfgoed Vitrine Instellingen Activiteiten & Projecten Publicaties

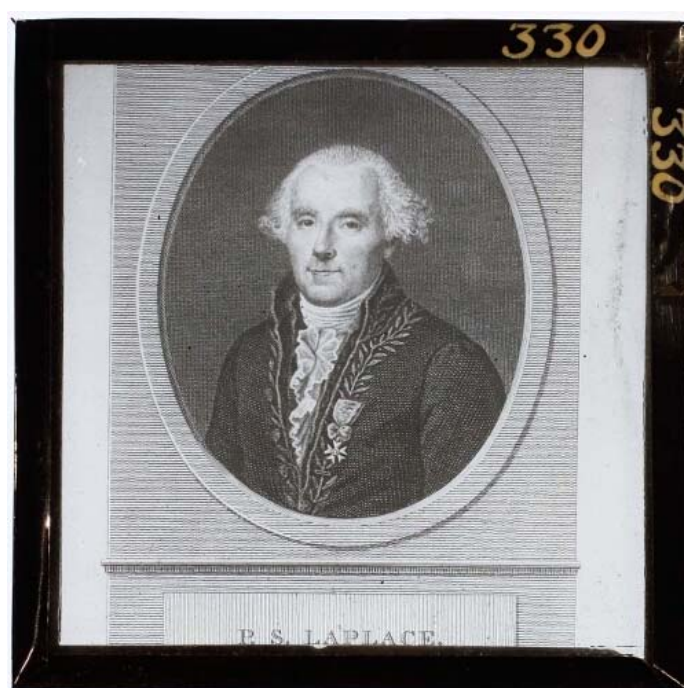
### Lichtbeelden project

Lantaampijljes en glasdia's werden tussen ca 1870 en 1950 veelvuldig gebruikt op universiteiten, als een voorloper van Powerpoint voor de overdracht van kennis. Docenten vervaardigden soms unieke sets van deze beeld dragers, zoals van botanische expedities of archeologische opgravingen. Maar in meerderheid betrof het reproducties van illustratiemateriaal uit boeken, foto's of prenten of series die op de internationale markt vervaardigd en verkocht werden door fotografen, foto-ateliers en uitgeverijen.



## From the Archives: 20,000<sup>th</sup> slide image on Lucerna

The 20,000<sup>th</sup> slide image is now online! In December 2016, the 20,000<sup>th</sup> image of a lantern slide record was updated to Lucerna. The 20,000<sup>th</sup> digital image illustrates the slide <http://www.slides.uni-trier.de/slide/index.php?id=5112905> which shows a portrait of the astronomer and mathematician Pierre-Simon Laplace (1749-1827) reproduced from a print. The slide was bound to a cover glass with a glossy plasticised scotch tape, which created the reflections in the lower left part in the digitisation process.



The slide comes from the collection of Sonnenborgh, the observatory and astronomy museum in Utrecht (NL). Sonnenborgh has a collection of about 3,500 slides that were used in teaching astrophysics at Utrecht University, dating from circa 1895 until at least the 1960's. The photograph of the slide was taken by Sarah Dellmann (Utrecht), Richard Crangle (Exeter) tagged the image. As such, this slide makes a good example for both the project's research material and the advantages of databases where colleagues add knowledge to the records created by others.

The Lucerna database currently contains records for 8,525 slide sets comprising over 247,400 slides of which 114,198 individual slides have been listed – including 21,249 with images.



## News from other projects

★ *Let op, let op !!!* ★  
18 februari in de cultuurkoepel Heiloo,  
een Toverlantaarn voorstelling .....



**Lantaarnist:**  
**Uncle Charles en zijn magische lantaarn**  
Vertoond zal worden:  
Drama, De Avondklok, Avontuur, Het Spookschip  
Romantiek: Doornroosje, in Silhouet uitgevoerd !!  
*Prachtige kleurenwisselaars en komische afbeeldingen*  
*Enzovoorts enzovoorts, kom dit zien, kom dit zien !!*

Onder auspiciën en medewerking van:  
Het Toverlantaarnmuseum Heiloo.

Collector and Performer “Uncle Charles” will give a **lantern show at the Cultuurkoepel in Heiloo (NL)** on 18 February 2017. Doors open at 19:30 and the show starts at 20:00. The flyer promises great entertainment! Tickets can be ordered here:

[www.cultuurkoepelheiloo.nl/sections/agenda](http://www.cultuurkoepelheiloo.nl/sections/agenda)

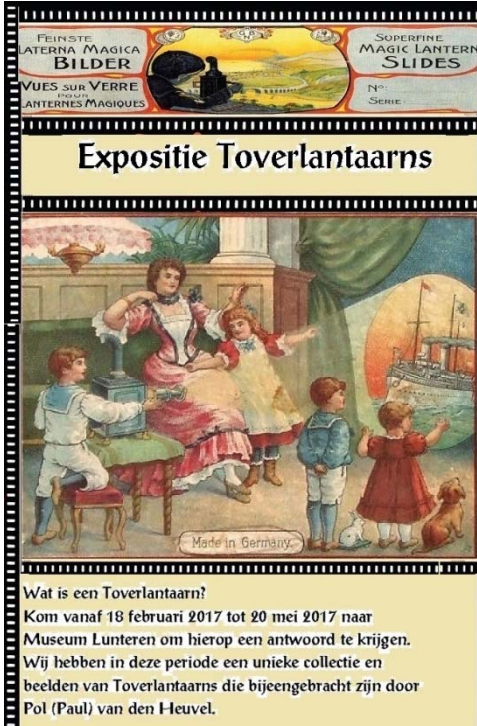
The **Library of Congress** put on a show including slides by social reformer Jacob Riis. Parts of the show are documented in a video that you can access here:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BHU3l3CjdcT/>

An **exhibition of Magic Lanterns and slide** from the collection of Pol (Paul) van den Heuvel will be shown in Lunteren (NL). The exhibition will open on 18 February and runs until 20 May 2017.

In 2005, the **National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA)** started on a project to digitally preserve some 10,000 glass slides in their collection. NFSA conservator Shingo Ishikawa and digitisation specialist Darren Weinert write about lantern slides used for advertising and announcements in cinemas (they call them ‘cinema slides’) in a three-part series.

See <https://nfsa.govcms.gov.au/latest/glass-cinema-slides-1>



FEINSTE MAGICA BILDER  
VUES SUR VERRE  
ANTERNES MAGIQUES

SUPERFINE MAGIC LANTERN SLIDES  
N°.  
Série.

**Expositie Toverlantaarns**

Made in Germany

Wat is een Toverlantaarn?  
Kom vanaf 18 februari 2017 tot 20 mei 2017 naar Museum Lunteren om hierop een antwoord te krijgen. Wij hebben in deze periode een unieke collectie en beelden van Toverlantaarns die bijeengebracht zijn door Pol (Paul) van den Heuvel.

## News from other projects: Slide Collections Online

An increasing number of slides become available online. Here are two examples that present specialised collections:

The **Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library** in the US has made available more than 500 slides. Many of them show masonic emblems and allegoric scenes, but there are also some narrative series, including “The Pied Piper”, but also “How Jones Became a Mason”, depictions of historic events such as the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers, the American War of Independence, the life of Abraham Lincoln and some children’s slides fabricated by Ernst Plank:

<http://mdsmobius.supremecouncil.org/results.php?term=slide&module=objects&type=keyword&x=0&y=0&page=1>

There is also an online exhibition “Illuminating Brotherhood: Magic Lanterns and Slides from the Collection”:

<http://srmmlonlineexhibitions.omeka.net/exhibits/show/the-secret-society-lantern--ma/introduction-1>



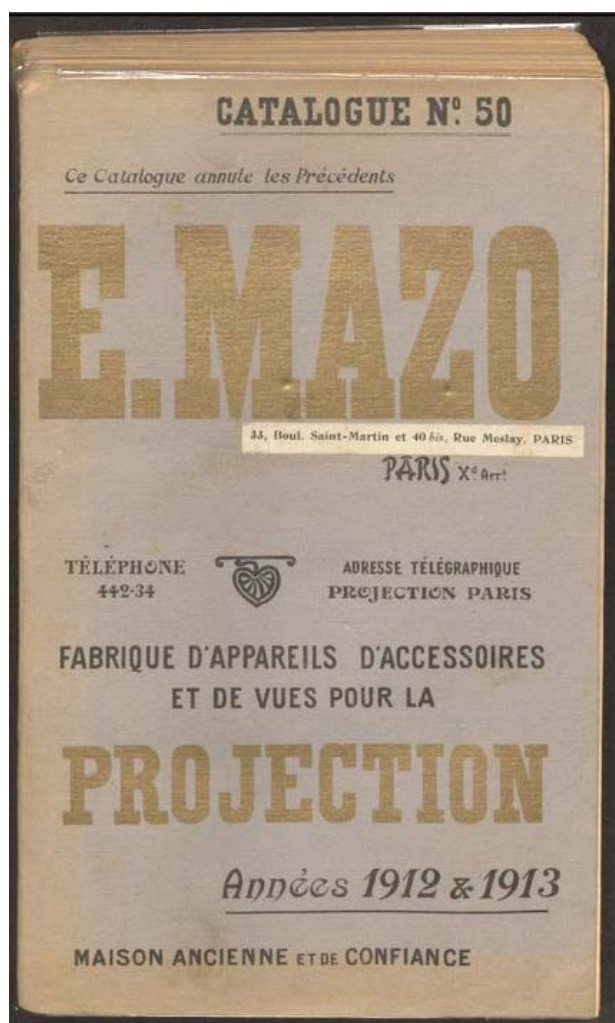
The Research Centre of Excellence (LabEx) “**Écrire une Histoire Nouvelle de l’Europe**” (Writing a New History of Europe) has digitised the photographic slides that were found in a depot of the Parisian Lycée Colbert. The collection consists of more than 450 black and white pictures, most of which were distributed by Radiguet & Massiot: <http://labex-ehne.fr/europe-1900/>

## Series: Favourite Slide

*Instead of a favourite slide, this time we feature the public's favourite item from our digital collection: E Mazo's Catalogue No. 50, titled "Fabrique d'appareils d'accessoires et vues pour la projection" from 1912/1913, available at <https://archive.org/details/MazoCatalogueNo50Images>*

With more than 1,300 views since its being uploaded in fall 2016, this catalogue is the most popular item in the digital collection of lantern and slides

catalogues to date.

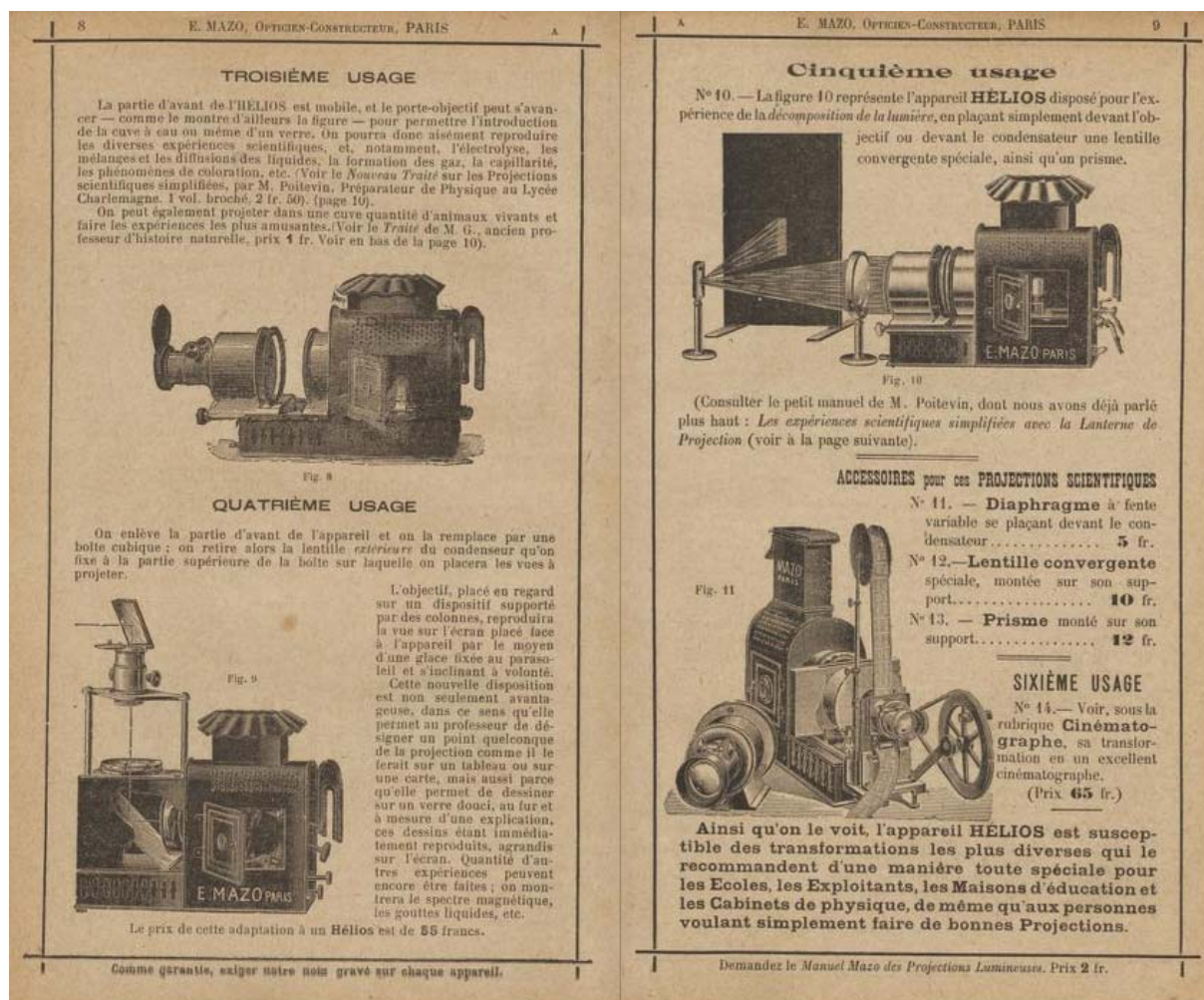


This very comprehensive catalogue (582 pages) is richly illustrated. Next to projection apparatus (magic lanterns, film projectors, projectors for opaque objects, stereoscopic views), the catalogue offers accessories for films (e.g. spools, storage boxes, projection lenses), light sources (arc light, lime light, electric light). Accessories for the projection and production of lantern slides are offered and illustrated (carriers, frames, masks, glue, colour...). A very detailed catalogue of lantern slides, ordered by subject matter starts at page 220.

We will probably never know why this catalogue is so popular and what its

readers actually value about it: the illustrations? Its link to cinema? Its long explications on how the apparatuses benefit education and uplift? Is there a special interest group in lighting techniques that discovered something in the descriptions? Do antiquities seller discovered it to identify objects? Or is it simply that a famous person's name appears in the full-text and leads internet users to "wrong" results?





*An explication of different types of projection with one magic lantern, p. 8-9.*

The original catalogue is in the private collection of the Toverlantaarnmuseum Scheveningen (Magic Lantern Museum of Scheveningen), The Netherlands. Its owner was surprised to see that an object in his collection was so popular and replied "Nice to hear – and you do not do your work for nothing either". So let's continue! **If you have catalogues in your collection that you wish to make available in our online digital collection, please contact us.** As you see, we may never know who is interested in an object and why – but we do see that there is interest for this material.

The collection of magic lantern and slide catalogues was set up in collaboration with our colleagues at Media History Digital Library (see Newsletter #7). The Mazo catalogue and other catalogues are available at [www.mediahistoryproject.org/magiclantern](http://www.mediahistoryproject.org/magiclantern).

Currently, the collection holds 39 catalogues, more are coming.

## About & Editorial

This newsletter informs about the activities of the project A Million Pictures: Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefact in the Common European History of Learning.

The magic lantern was the most important visual entertainment and means of instruction across nineteenth-century Europe. However, despite its pervasiveness across multiple scientific, educational and popular contexts, magic lantern slides remain under-researched. Although many libraries and museums across Europe hold tens of thousands of lantern slides in their collections, a lack of standards for documentation and preservation limits the impact of existing initiatives, hinders the recognition of the object's heritage value and potential exploitation. *A Million Pictures* addresses the sustainable preservation of this massive, untapped heritage resource.

*A Million Pictures* is a collaborative research project between researchers from Utrecht University (NL), University of Exeter (UK), University of Antwerp (BE), University of Girona (ES), University of Salamanca (ES) as well as twenty Associated Partners.

*A Million Pictures* runs from June 2015 until May 2018.

More information about past and present activities are available on our project website: [www.uu.nl/a-million-pictures](http://www.uu.nl/a-million-pictures)



*A Million Pictures: Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefacts in the Common European History of Learning* is a Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage – Heritage Plus project which is funded by NWO, Belspo, AHRC and MINECO and Co-Funded by the European Commission.



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This newsletter is edited by Sarah Dellmann, additional texts are written by Frank Kessler.