

# *A Million Pictures*



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

**Newsletter # 11 | October 2017**

### **More than 100 people participated at the *A Million***

*Pictures* conference from 29 August to 1 September: researchers and archivists, museum staff and artists, musicians and collectors. From senior professor to undergraduate student and across disciplines. Without exaggeration, we can say that it was the largest conference dedicated to lantern slides – and it was fun, too. This conference definitely was a crucial moment in the creation of a network on lantern slide heritage.

The mix of perspectives that everyone brought to Utrecht enriched everyone's knowledge on the objects, the historical contexts of their use and their potential for contemporary artistic practice and research. Although we've started out as a project researching European culture, we could broaden our perspectives on lantern culture through contributions from Hong Kong, Russia, Japan, Australia the USA and Canada.

Let's hope that our research journeys into lantern culture will bring us together again in the near future. Maybe already for our Workshop in Exeter (see page 5)?

*Hands-on, please! Impressions from the workshop session by Mirror Mirror*



## **In this newsletter**

From the Project Coordination	2
Project News: Conference	3
Project News	5
Series: Favourite Slides	7
Report from the “Heritage in the Limelight” Workshop	9
News from Other Projects	11
Linternauta Web Application	13
Editorial and About	15

## **From the Project Coordination**

We are planning a book with essays based on the contributions of the conference and will inform about this in our next newsletter.

Some presentations are available at our “After the conference” Webpage: <http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/conference/after-the-conference/> We would be happy to add more material. Just e-mail it!

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@uu.nl](mailto:s.dellmann@uu.nl)

Any items for the next newsletter (December 2017) should be submitted by

**24 November 2017**

## Project News: Conference

Thanks to our photographers Nadine Maas and Doris Wilson, the conference is well-documented in photographs. Please note that the image folders will only be available until February 2018. It might be necessary to copy the links to your browser for accessing the files.

### Tuesday, 29 August

<https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Doris-Wilson-Tuesday29-08.zip>

### Wednesday, 30 August & Conference Fair

[https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Conference%20Fair-Part1\\_NadineMaas.zip](https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Conference%20Fair-Part1_NadineMaas.zip)

[https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Conference%20Fair-Part2\\_NadineMaas.zip](https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Conference%20Fair-Part2_NadineMaas.zip)

<https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Doris%20Wilson-Conference%20Fair.zip>

### Thursday, 31 August

<https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Doris-Wilson-Thursday31-08.zip>

### Friday, 1 September

<https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2017/10/Doris-Wilson-Friday01-09.zip>



## Project News: Conference (continued)

Lanternists Cooperation thanks to A Million Pictures Conference (by Else Film)



How to find a lanternist on the other side of the world?

The Dutch Dickens Theatre was asked to perform at the International Dickens Fellowship Conference in Sydney in 2018. We, Adrian Kok Charles Dickens-performer and I, playwright/director, decided to accept the invitation; but only *if* we could find an Australian lanternist willing to bring his Magic Lantern to Sydney and to help us to perform. What to do?

I read the names of the participants of the ‘A Million Pictures’ Conference and there he was: Martyn Jolly. Martyn is from the Australian National University, and he lives 3 hours driving distance from Sydney! He smiled and said ‘Yes’. Next year we are going to perform together! I’m sure we will have lots of fun. Thanks to ‘A Million Pictures’!

**More collaboration:** The piece “The Blackbird” by Liselotte Westerterp, performed by musicians from Utrecht conservatory during the Million Pictures conference, inspired lanternist Annet Duller to create a moving slide herself, specially designed to accompany this abstract piece of contemporary music. Both are now examining the possibility to create a video-clip and search for possibilities to perform this piece again. “We got a lot of response about the technical part of our performance from the public, and that was really encouraging” said Annet Duller. “At first, it was really a miracle for me to come up with something that fits the music. In the end, it provokes thinking about still and moving images. It was really nice to experience that the poem and the music get more accessible the more you delve into to it.”

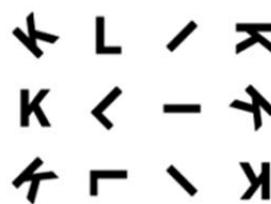
## Project News

The **fourth and final Workshop of the *Million Pictures* project** will be held in Exeter, South West England, on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 January 2018, with a meeting of the research group on Saturday 13 January. The preliminary programme is available at our website <http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/workshop-4/>, details will follow. We thank the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, the Barnfield Theatre and the Devon and Exeter Institution for their generous help and support.

Everyone is welcome to join us for discussions and presentations on all aspects of lantern slide use in educational contexts, plus reflections from the project teams and thoughts on how we should build on the excellent progress made in the course of the project. There is no charge for attendance, and the evening events are included for workshop participants, but if you are interested please register your attendance with us by **31 October 2017** so we can plan the catering and other arrangements. If you would like to join us, or have any questions (including travel, accommodation etc.) please contact Richard Crangle ([r.crangle@googlemail.com](mailto:r.crangle@googlemail.com)) or Joe Kember ([j.e.kember@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.kember@exeter.ac.uk)).

The animation film ***Slide of Life*** is in running in competition at **Klik! Animation Film Festival Amsterdam** in the

category “Animated Student Shorts”. *Slide of Life* was created by Thomas Bruinsma, Fleur Sophie de Boer, Jeroen Koelewijn from Utrecht School of Arts in a collaborative project of *A Million*



*Pictures*. The short film used digital images of lantern slides from the collections of our partners Utrecht University Museum, Museum Sonnenborgh and EYE Film Institute Netherlands. The film runs in programme 6. See <http://www.klik.amsterdam/>. We keep our fingers crossed!

The film is also included on the DVD “A Million Pictures. Magic Lantern Heritage Today – Examples of creative re-use” (see next page)

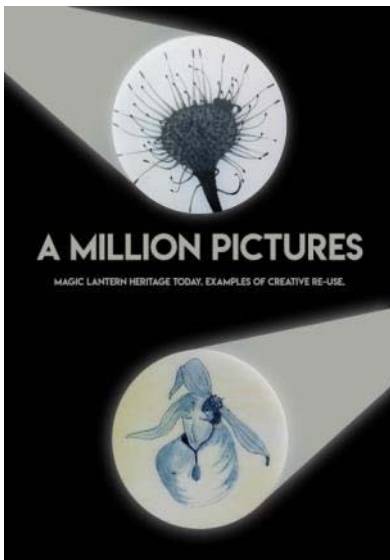
## Project News (continued)

### Reminder: Call for Paper for Fonseca: Journal of Communication

The Call for Papers for the Special Issue on Magic Lantern and Lantern Slides of the Journal “Fonseca: Journal of Communication” will close on March 30, 2018. Fonseca is a peer-reviewed Open Access Journal, edited by the University of Salamanca. Papers can be submitted in Spanish or English. For more

information, see the call for papers <http://revistas.usal.es/index.php/2172-9077/pages/view/linternamagica> or contact Carmen Lopez San Segundo

([maika@usal.es](mailto:maika@usal.es)). You can find the information in English at the end of the page.

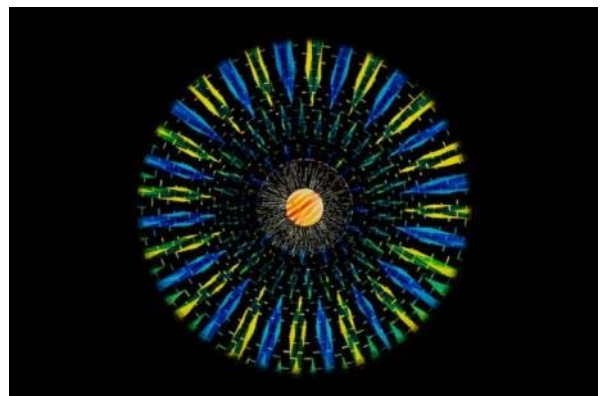


Integral part of the *A Million Pictures* project is the collaboration between researchers, archivists, curators and artists. The **DVD Magic Lantern Heritage Today. Examples of Creative Re-Use** documents various forms of artistic engagement with lantern slide heritage that emerged from collaboration between the research teams and artists: animation film, peep show performance, educational film, live video art, art installation, development of an app, lantern shows and interviews with researchers about their work. The DVD can be ordered for free by sending an e-mail to Sarah Dellmann.

The **exhibition 'Light!' at the Cinema Museum Girona** was featured as news item on the Catalan television Televisió 3.

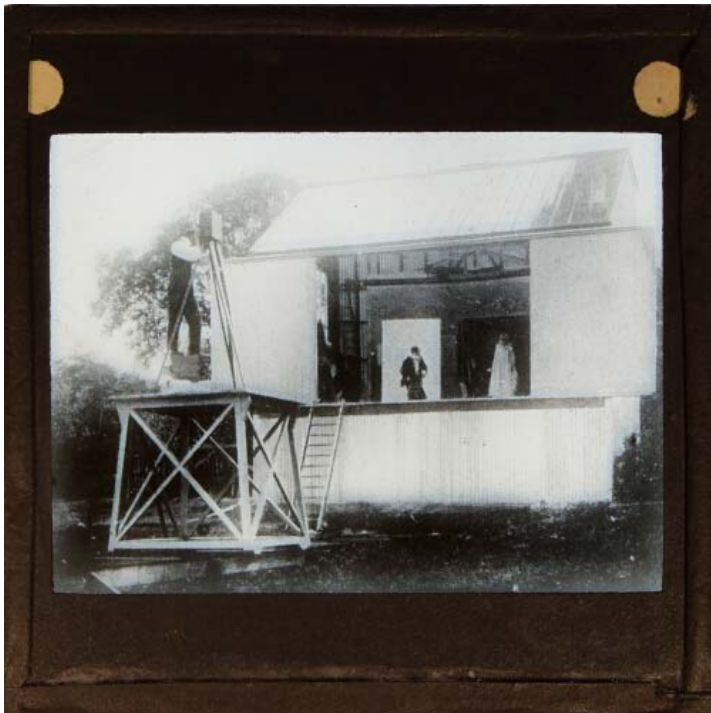
Director Jordi Pons explains the historical use of the magic lantern. Some slides of the collection are also shown in movement.

Watch the clip [La llanterna màgica: el cinema abans del cinema, al museu del Cinema de Girona](#) (2 minutes, in Catalan) or visit the exhibition - it runs until January 2018.



## Series: Favourite Slide

*In every newsletter, members of the research team or our partners share their fascination with lantern slides by pointing to (one of) their favourite source. In this newsletter, the floor is to Frank Kessler.*



Royal Institution Collection – reproduced by permission.  
Digital image © 2017 Royal Institution.

This is maybe not a slide I would call one of my favourites, but it is quite a remarkable one. It shows the shooting of a scene in Robert William Paul's studio and is part of a series of slides on Paul's cinematograph film production in the collection of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The series contains several photographs such as this one, drawings of cameras and accessories, and several frames and frame enlargements from Paul's films.

This photo, for instance, was used among others by British film historians Rachel Low and Roger Manvell as an illustration in their 1948 book *The History of British Film 1896-1906*, but published originally in Paul's sales catalogue. It appeared in the 1903 edition, but may have been used already in earlier ones.

It is an interesting document showing how Paul's studio differed from, for instance, Méliès's in Montreuil, where the camera was set up inside the building.

But apart from this photo's documentary value, it is also intriguing to consider it as a slide. To what end was it reproduced and how was it used? Contrary to other slides from the series documented in Lucerna it does not carry a number. The numbering itself is not continuous, so there were probably other slides in the set, which may have shown material on other filmmakers as part of a more general documentation on early film history. One may presume that these slides were not part of a commercially produced and distributed set. They rather seem to belong to the vast group of "self-made" slides produced by lecturers for their own use, reproducing material from books, newspapers, brochures or, in this case, a sales catalogue. So who spoke about Robert William Paul's studio in a lecture? Quite probably a film historian, but it would take further research into the provenance of this series of images to confirm this. And what else was part of this set? What was the lecture about? Were the images used to illustrate different lectures? Such "self-made" slides are quite a challenge to historical research, because they were produced to be used for a specific end (and maybe reused in other contexts), and thus information about their use are crucial to understand their function. We may know what they *show*, as in this case, but what they were meant to *say* is still a puzzle to be solved.

*Frank Kessler is Project Leader of A Million Pictures. E-mail: [F.E.Kessler@uu.nl](mailto:F.E.Kessler@uu.nl)*



## Report: Heritage in the Limelight Workshop

*By Joe Kember*

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September, UK ‘Million Pictures’ Principal Investigator, Joe Kember, visited Australian National University for the first workshop of our Australian sister project, [‘Heritage in the Limelight: the Magic Lantern in Australia and the World’](#). Funded by the Australian Research Council, ‘Heritage

in the Limelight’ is dedicated to uncovering the large but neglected collections of lantern slides that remain in Australian Museums and Archives, and to researching a medium which from the 1840s to the 1930s permeated Australian theatres, lecture halls, church services, private homes and open public spaces. The project is led by



Martyn Jolly at ANU, and all the team members, Nicolas Peterson, Paul Pickering, Jane Lydon, Martin Thomas, Joe Kember, and Elisa deCourcy attended and presented papers.

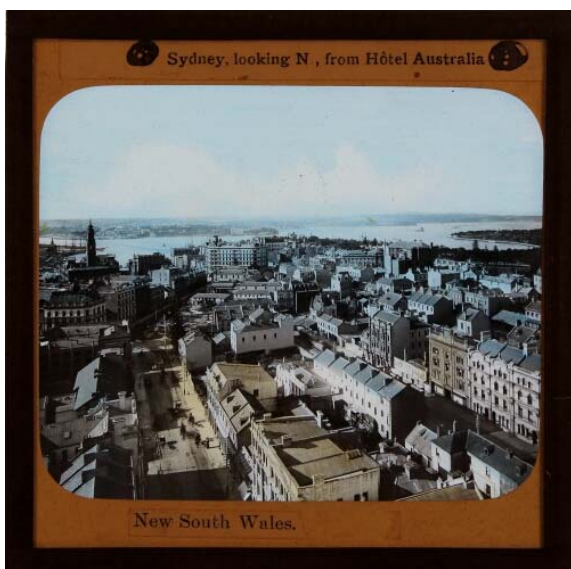
The first day of the workshop was occupied by a series of visits to fascinating repositories of lantern slides held in the capital, including the National Library of Australia, the National Sound and Film Archive, and the Australian War Memorial. The slides on show were incredibly varied, including material depicting colonial Australia and aboriginal life, as well as Australian ‘life-model’ material, and a great deal more. Those interested in WW1 material will be fascinated with the important collections held at the War Memorial, which include slides, schedules, and scripts delivered by touring lecturers immediately after the war.

The Roundtable event on the second day brought together members of the project team and representatives from institutions hosting some of the most

important lantern resources across Australia including the National Museum of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, The National Library, Museums Victoria, and the National Portrait Gallery. A highly productive discussion took place, in which the team learned a great deal about the needs and concerns of different institutions, and most expressed an interest in looking into further lantern activities. Martyn Jolly's fabulous lantern show followed (with Elisa deCourcy's able assistance and some fantastic musical accompaniment): a great treat for all who attended, many of whom had never seen a lantern show before. The show included the screening of some fantastic contemporary slides crafted by Australian artists.

On the final day, team members presented their current research on the project, with papers as follows (in case you'd like to follow up with any of us):

- Jane Lydon, 'Charity Begins at Home? Magic Lantern Slides and the Imperial World'
- Martin Thomas 'Ponting's Projections: **A pathway from lantern slides to cinema (via the South Pole)**'
- Martyn Jolly, 'The Magic Lantern on the Edge of Empire'
- Elisa deCourcy, 'Heritage in the Limelight, a collection in progress: Uncovering, researching and animating Australia's magic lantern past'
- Joe Kember, 'New 'Celebrities' for Australia': Touring lecturers and their agents in Australia and the World, 1880-1914'
- Nicolas Peterson, 'The last missionary lantern slide lecture? How the British and Foreign Bible Society represented its work to the citizens of Victoria'



We found the continuities between these papers to be fascinating and promising for the future of the project. *The project conference will take place in September 2018.* Clear your diaries!

*Joe Kember is Principle Investigator for the Research Team Exeter. [J.E.Kember@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:J.E.Kember@exeter.ac.uk)*

Slide taken from Lucerna:  
<https://slides.uni-trier.de/slide/index.php?id=5058258>

## News from other Projects

Sergi Buka is currently touring cities and town near Barcelone with his magical programme "Lucis et Umbrae".

October 21 San Andreu de la Barca.

October 22 Tordera.

October 28 Llinars del Vallès.

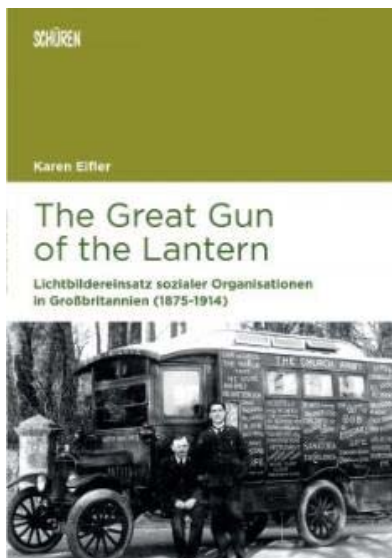
October 29 Sant Joan Despí.

Watch the trailer at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rxqbhP5Dw0>



If you're in the neighbourhood of Utrecht, do not miss the **traditional Christmas event in IJsselstein** on 15 December: across the entire village, people open their living rooms for short public performances of all kinds. Frans Mooij will present short lantern shows, this year's topic is "Christmas Circus". For more information, see <http://sprokkelroute.nl/>



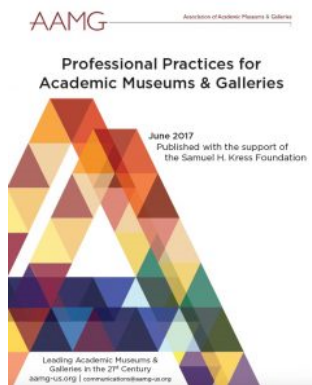
Karen Eifler's monograph "**The Great Gun of the Lantern. Lichtbildereinsatz sozialer Organisationen in Großbritannien (1875-1914)**"

has just been published (in German). In her impressive book, Karin Eifler studies how several Christian organisations, the United Kingdom Band of Hope, the Church of England Temperance Society, the Sunday School Union, the Church Army and the Salvation Army, as well as two secular organisations, the Co-operative Movement and the Clarion Movement, used the magic lantern as a

"great gun" to fight poverty and alcoholism in Britain. She looks in particular at the performative context of lantern projections, as these were generally combined with processions, sermons, or collective songs and meals. see

<https://www.schueren-verlag.de/programm/titel/548-the-great-gun-of-the-lantern.html>. Congratulations!

The Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG) of the USA has released '**AAMG Professional Practices for Academic Museums and Galleries**', a publication on Best Practices. This publication covers all major areas of university museum practice – from collections to fundraising and from governance to ethics – reuniting into a single source what is generally fragmented and dispersed. The publication can be downloaded for free at



<https://www.aamg-us.org/wp/best-practices/>

Patrice Guérin, collector and researcher of the historical art of projection has published a brochure titled “**De la Camera Obscura à la Lanterne magique**” which discusses historical books and manuals on the art of projection (in French). The publications as well as most sources that are discussed can be found on Patrice Guérin’s website:



<http://diaprojection.unblog.fr/publications/>

The **Magic Lantern Society of Europe** has several lantern-related books and for sale. Those you could not make it to the conference can still get these otherwise hard to get books via the website

<http://www.magiclantern.org.uk/sales/>

Book Title	Price
Dutch Perspectives	£39.50
The Temple of Minerva	£30.00 (£20.00 to MLS members)
From Magic Lantern to Movies	£15.00 (£10.00 to MLS members)
Encyclopaedia of the Magic Lantern	
Illustrated Bamforth Slide Catalogue	£15.00 (£10.00 to MLS members)
Realms of Light	£25.00 (£20.00 to MLS members)

## **Linternauta: A Web Application for the Interpretation of Magic Lantern Slide Heritage**

**Carmen López San Segundo and Francisco Javier Frutos Esteban**

In the context of the research project *A Million Pictures: Magic Lantern Slide Heritage as Artefacts in the Common European History of Learning*, the research team Salmanaca developed a taxonomic organization of magic lantern slides on the basis of content analysis. To this end, we devised a controlled vocabulary that facilitates the classification of magic lantern slides according to its discursive genre. This vocabulary is articulated around 24 terms that describe the discursive genre as a mediating instance of a formal and social character - in line with the reflections of Mikhail Bakhtin - and define it as a set of relevant variables associated with the conditions of production, display and reception of the contents recorded graphically on the magic lantern slides. The 24 terms refer to both technical and formal aspects of the slides in a magic lantern performance, allowing to organize all human activities of a social and communicative nature in relation to the reading, interpreting or staging of slides.

We used this genre classification as a 'conceptual architecture' for the design and development of Linternauta, a web application designed for collections of magic lantern slides. Linternauta promotes technological and educational innovation and aims to boost the knowledge, the accessibility and the cultural value present in the magic lantern slides thanks to the new digital technologies. Furthermore, Linternauta directly stimulates a contemporary cultural experience with this audiovisual heritage.

### **What is Linternauta?**

In order to promote technological and educational innovation, Linternauta has been designed to be part of the catalogue of educational tools used by museums such as Museu del Cinema-Col·lecció Tomàs Mallol (Girona, Spain) or MUNCYT. National Science and Technology Museum (Madrid, Alcobendas & La

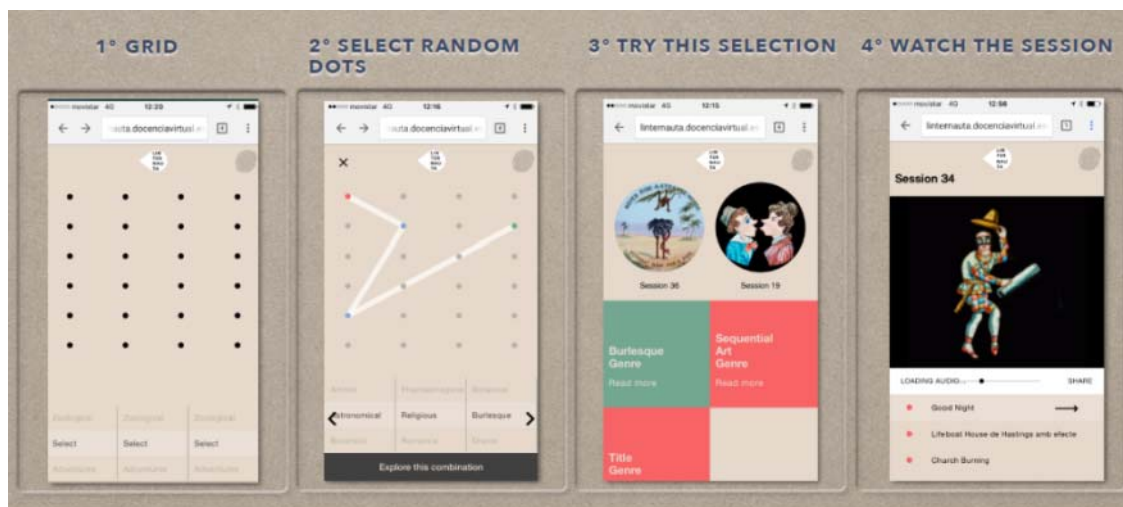


Coruña, Spain) and to support a temporary exhibition such as *Magic Lantern Travels around the World* produced by The Space of Scientific Culture of the University of Salamanca (Spain).

### How does Linternauta work?

The app offers online multi-language content and three levels of experience for users:

- Inexperienced users, who know nothing about the universe of the magic lantern.
- Users, who are familiar with the magic lantern, but need to be guided by the conceptual map of discursive genres.
- Expert users who, as lanternists used to do, can create their own magic lantern show. These users may or may not want to consult the conceptual guide of discursive genres.



Linternauta aims to spread knowledge and access to magic lantern slides thanks to information and communication technology (ICT), as well as stimulate the direct experience of any community of users regarding this valuable European Cultural Heritage.

*An explanatory film on Linternauta including the QR-code for downloading the app is included in the DVD “A Million Pictures, Magic Lantern: Heritage today. Examples of creative re-use” (see page 6).*

## 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.



This document is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

This newsletter is edited by Sarah Dellmann, additional contributions are written by Richard Crangle, Else Flim, Francisco Javier Frutos Esteban, Joe Kember, Frank Kessler and Carmen López San Segundo.