

A Million Pictures



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

Newsletter # 15 | May 2018

This is the last newsletter of the Million Pictures

Project. It is with a big sense of accomplishment that we look back on our activities of the last three years. In joint collaboration, we have discovered, digitised, documented, theorised and performed lantern slides in various ways. We learned a lot, from the slides and from each other. We sparked initiatives in museums, archives and research; we spread the lantern virus and find ourselves in company of more enthusiasts than three years ago. And now it is time for the final bow:



Slide from the collection Cinema Museum Girona; available on Lucerna:

<https://slides.uni-trier.de/slide/index.php?id=5117283>

In this newsletter

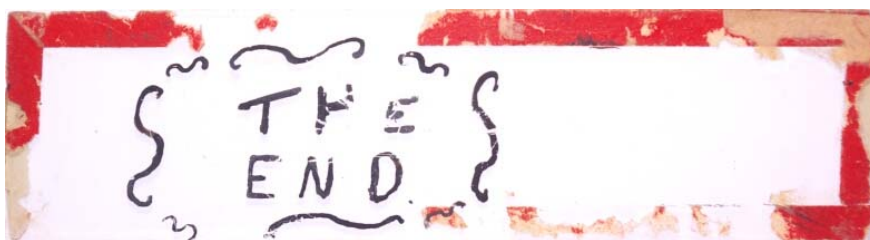
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From the Project Coordination

Thank you for your interest, contributions and for spreading the word. As we summarised it on our last meeting: “It was fun. Let’s do it again”.

It is in this spirit we hope to see you back, sharing the magic of our shared cultural heritage. To make that happen, this last newsletter is full of information for staying in contact: check the diverse links in this newsletters and do not forget to sign up to anything that interests you. We will not use this e-mail list anymore.

The *Million Pictures* website (<http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/>) will stay online but will not be updated after 31 May 2018.



Project News

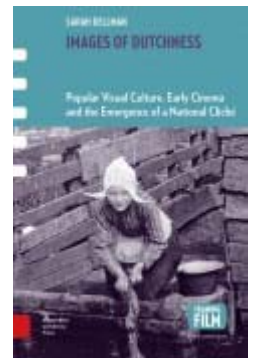
Fonseca – Journal of Communication, issue Nr. 16 is dedicated to a Magic Lantern Special Issue. It will be published online on 1 June 2018. The journal contains seven contributions by scholars from various countries, among them contributions from the *Million Pictures* team. All articles are freely accessible. Check the website <http://revistas.usal.es/index.php/2172-9077/index>

Laterna Historical Art of Projection

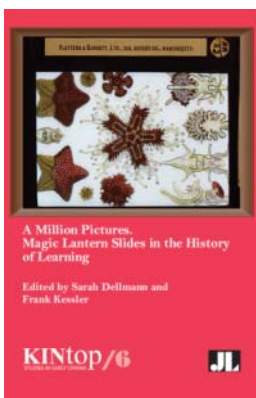
Also in early June, our project partners from Trier university will present their **digital research environment e-laterna** and the electronic companion to the historical art of projection. Both resources will be launched on 4-5 June and freely available online after that. For more information, see <https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/e-laterna/>

The book **Images of Dutchness. Popular Visual Culture, Early Cinema and the Emergence of a National Cliché** by Sarah Dellmann will be available in August. Among the visual material studied to trace the depiction of the Netherlands and the Dutch in popular media, lantern slides are studied. Review copies can be ordered from Amsterdam UP (www.aup.nl), the book will be available Open Access 12 month after its initial publication. See for more information:

<http://en.aup.nl/books/9789462983007-images-of-dutchness.html>



The **conference proceedings of our international and interdisciplinary *Million***



***Pictures* conference** in August 2017 in Utrecht, titled *A Million Pictures – Magic Lantern Slides in the History of Learning*, are currently edited and will be published in fall 2018 with John Libbey. We are very happy to announce that our publisher agreed to make the publication available open Access after an embargo period of 12 months after publication. For review copies contact Frank Kessler (f.e.kessler@uu.nl)

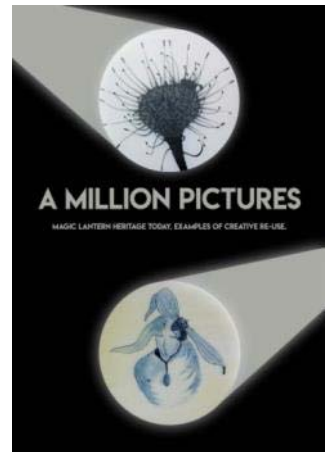
Project Outcomes

Part of *Million Pictures* aim was to produce various resources to enable people to share their lantern slide collections to interested audiences. Here are some of our highlights:

Integral part of the *A Million Pictures* project was 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. It features an animation film, a peep show performance, an educative film, live video art, an art installation, the development of an app, lantern shows and interviews with researchers about their work.

All 300 copies of the DVD are distributed, but we can offer to create copies if you contact us **no later than 30 May 2018**.

<https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/dvd-creative-re-use/>



The **discussion notes “Experience with Creative Re-Use”** document the evaluation of experiences with the creative Re-Use projects and activities that were developed in the course of the *A Million Pictures* Project. We thought that this may inspire others! The discussion was held at the Research Team Assembly on 13 January 2018, after our last workshop. You can download the PDF (2 pages) from <https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/discussion-creative-reuse/>

In order to enable various stakeholders to contribute their knowledge about lantern slides to the reference database [Lucerna – The Magic Lantern Web Resource](#), we created two manuals. Both manuals were discussed with stakeholders (archivists, researchers, collectors) and edited by Sarah Dellmann.



The **Lucerna Manual #1: How to prepare digital images files for upload to Lucerna** is an illustrated step-by-step manual (PDF, 8 pages) which explains how to prepare digital image files for upload to Lucerna. You can download it from <https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/manual-images-lucerna/>

Project Outcomes (continued)



The **Lucerna Manual #2: How to catalogue slide sets in Lucerna** is a detailed resource (PDF, 26 pages) which combines background information and a step-by-step manual for cataloguing slide sets in Lucerna. It focuses on information relevant to cataloguing slides and slide sets. However, the descriptions can be adapted to insert information on other entities (people, hardware, events), too. Part 1 gives background information on the way that Lucerna works, definitions we use and common problems that occur when determining the information about lantern slides and slide sets. Part 2 is a step-by-step manual, illustrated with screen shots, which explains how to catalogue information about lantern *slides* and lantern *slide sets*. The manual can be downloaded from <https://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/manual-catalogue-slide-sets/>

The **Recommendations for the Digitisation of Magic Lantern Slides** are another resource for those who would like to provide access to their slide collection in a digital form. The recommendations were elaborated by the *A Million Pictures* working group on digitization; and can be accessed via <https://a-million-pictures-recommendations.wp.hum.uu.nl/>.



The **App Linternauta**, developed by the team Salamanca, is a tool to visually explore lantern collections. It is designed to promote technological and educational innovation and also is intended to be integrated to the catalogue of educational tools used by museums. Download the app from <http://linternauta.docenciavirtual.es/>

Next to these tangible results, *A Million Pictures* saw a number of performances, activities and workshops. Check out the list of past events for future inspiration: <http://a-million-pictures.wp.hum.uu.nl/category/agenda/>
See also our contribution to resources on page 9!

News about Lucerna – The Magic Lantern Web Resource

The central resource of the *Million Pictures* project is the Lucerna Magic Lantern web resource. In our grant application, we promised to develop this resource into a veritable virtual resource centre. The database development task was carried out by Richard Crangle from the Research Team Exeter.

Substantial and ongoing increase in the number and range of slides

catalogued and illustrated: over 3,800 images from Team Utrecht, over 2,700 from Team Girona, more than 16,700 from Exeter and 100 images contributed by the Team Antwerp have been uploaded, resulting in over 30,000 illustrated slides in Lucerna at the end of the *A Million Pictures* project.



The 30,000th slide illustration in Lucerna comes from the collection of Museu del Cinema-Col·lecció Tomàs Mallol (Girona).

<https://www.slides.univ-trier.de/slide/index.php?id=5124810>

Links to standardised web resources, including **VIAF, Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus, Wikipedia, GIS mapping tools** are implemented; Lucerna database fields have been created to receive relevant linking data for all these resources. Fields for **tagging visual content of images** are developed, which enhance searching and discovery of the resource content. Major **work on the infrastructure behind the scenes** was changed to enhanced the security of the web pages (database calls now use the PDO Abstraction Layer). Value lists were standardised which facilitates editing. The foundations for a **mechanism to enable multilingual presentation** are embedded – trial functions in Spanish in selected areas of the data entry and editing pages have proven successful. The translation of the conceptual units into languages other than English is a promising research project in the future

Staying in Touch: Information & Newsletters

KINtop newsletter, distributed through the University of Trier, contains news on the world of Early Cinema studies, Magic Lantern Research and the historical art of projection, in English and German language. Subscribe: kintop@uni-trier.de

Heritage in the Limelight Newsletter. The newsletter of our Australian sister project on Magic Lantern culture in Australia and the world. Also advertises performances. Subscribe: elisa.decourcy@anu.edu.au



Magic Lantern News on Twitter. Everything new in the Magic Lantern world, in one tweet per day: stay connected via the Twitter account of the Magic Lantern Society. Subscribe via <https://twitter.com/MagicLanternSoc>.

B-Magic Newsletter. The recently started research project on Magic Lantern in Belgium also has a newsletter. Subscribe at B-magic@uantwerpen.be



New Light on Old Media Newsletter. With a particular interest in projects combining old visual techniques with new ideas, *New Light on Old Media* covers panoramas, stereoscopy, stage magic, modern uses of projection, art, early transitional cinema history or related fields of fascination such as travelling fairs, vaudeville and theatre. This newsletter is organised by the Magic Lantern Society Europe, people who are not (yet) members can also subscribe: <http://www.magiclantern.org.uk/new-light-on-old-media/>



Staying in Touch: Exchanges & Performances

The **Magic Lantern Societies** are *the* associations for people of all kinds and sorts with various interests in the magic lantern to get and stay in contact on lantern-related matters. Collectors, researchers, performers of all ages are welcome; conventions, shows and publications are organised. There are two societies, one in Europe and one in North America. Both society websites provide a wealth of links to additional resources:



Magic Lantern Society Europe:

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

Magic Lantern Society USA & Canada:

<http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/>

Performances:

Illuminago. Since 1986, Illuminago gives live performances, media archaeological experiments, workshops and scientific research. Check out their new websites and subscribe to their mailinglist at <http://illuminago.de/>

Mirror Mirror Education gives workshops for diverse audiences on optical media all over Britain. They are currently involved in a new film on the history of photography at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Look out for announcements!

<http://www.mirrormirroreducation.co.uk/>

Dickens Theatre Laren. Aad Kok and Else Flim regularly give magic lantern shows in their cozy theatre with Victorian ambience. Regular shows take 2



hours including a break, private shows for groups can be booked. See all upcoming shows for 2018 on <http://www.dickenstheater.nl>

There are more lantern performers out there! Both Magic Lantern Societies can get you into contact with them.



Staying in Touch: Resources

Wikipedia List of Lantern Slide Collections. Add your collection to the Wikipedia List of Lantern Slide collection or check this website for public lantern slide collections that are available for research:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_lantern_slide_collections



Dutch Virtual Magic Lantern Museum - de Luikerwaal. An informative and richly illustrated site providing a wealth of information on the history and use of the magic lantern and lantern slides with all fixtures and fittings, and their producers, in Dutch and English language. www.luikerwaal.com.

Magic Lantern and Slide Catalog Collection. Realised in collaboration with our partners at *Media History Digital Library*, this curated online collection provides free access to digitized catalogues. To date, 60 catalogues from 6 countries are available at <http://mediahistoryproject.org/magiclantern/>. This material constitutes a rich and varied documentation for further research and we hope

it will continue to be used by collectors, scholars, archivists, curators and all amateurs of the magic lantern. To upload further catalogues you can contact the team of MHDL. Sarah Dellmann's article "Exploring Magic Lantern Catalogues Online" (published in *The Magic Lantern*, 2016) presents this collection and explains how this resource can be explored. The article is freely accessible via <https://dspace.library.uu.nl/handle/1874/343129>



Magic Lantern Readings Library. Almost 3,000 lantern readings in various languages are digitized and can be downloaded as PDF from the website of the Magic Lantern Society. The collection can be browsed, but full-text download is available to members only. <http://www.magiclantern.org.uk/readings/>

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 Laura Dunham.

Within the set of lantern slides we're currently working on at the University of Canterbury (NZ), this is a slide that continues to intrigue me. It shows a crowd of people waiting for the unveiling ceremony to begin at the Chunuk Bair Battlefield Memorial on the Gallipoli peninsula, Turkey, on May 12th, 1925.



Visitors at the unveiling of the Chunuk Bair battlefield memorial on May 12th, 1925. Digitised lantern slide, LS.01.0021, courtesy of the Department of Art History & Theory, University of Canterbury.

Series: Favourite Slide (continued)

The slide comes from the collection of Samuel Hurst Seager (1855–1933) who was the architect of this and four other battlefield memorials commemorating significant New Zealand military actions during the First World War.

At Chunuk Bair in 1915, New Zealand troops held back Ottoman defenders amid a largely unsuccessful campaign by the Allies to knock the Ottoman Empire out of the War. Six years later, Seager began work on the memorials in Turkey, France and Belgium, documenting progress with his camera.

The slide presents us with a photograph that aims to record for posterity the moment that the first 'official' visitors to the newly completed site arrive. The camera has been positioned to show the full height, texture and form of the monument, with a crowd milling around its base. It's a 'before' shot of the event with the New Zealand and British flags still covering the inscription stone, later to be unveiled.

A full account of the day was reported in the newspapers, describing the journey of some 400 "British pilgrims" (mostly New Zealand, Australian and English citizens) to the remote Chunuk Bair hill, after visiting other key WWI sites along the way. Many of the visitors would have been relatives of the fallen, but there were also officers who had served at Gallipoli, Turkish and British officials, and the 130 drivers who had transported everyone there in carts.

The people in this image are dressed in their best, wearing hats, stockings, waistcoats and coats, the heat notwithstanding. Who or what was it they had travelled all this way for? Did the difficulties of travel to an isolated location (on the other side of the world for some) impinge on the experience, or did they appreciate the opportunity to get to the place where their husbands, sons, brothers, friends and comrades had suffered injuries or were killed? How did it feel for the veterans to return to the site, where the memories surely must have been intense? I like how the two men at the front engage with our gaze (one leans in, in that familiar attempt to ensure he's in the shot), and some in

Series: Favourite Slide (continued)

the main group are also aware of the camera; a woman at the far right seems to be looking on over her shoulder.

As for Seager, who on this day was actually in New York *en route* to New Zealand, he said that missing the ceremony was “one of the greatest disappointments of his life”. So I also wonder how it made him feel to look at this slide and see at last his design ‘in use’, after five years of hard work. Perhaps with sadness that he had to miss it, mixed with pride in what he had accomplished. How he obtained a copy of this image is not known, yet some markings and the mask suggest that Seager photographed a print to make this lantern slide, probably cropping out more of the crowd and (tantalisingly) any identifying marks of the photographer.

Seager included the slide set in his 1926 lantern lecture tour around New Zealand, showing slides of the five memorials, with a detailed narration, to New Zealanders who could not visit places like Chunuk Bair, but felt irrevocably tied to them. It’s the forerunner of each Anzac Day when television footage of the annual memorial service at the Chunuk Bair monument is replayed on the evening news in New Zealand. In its mission to document and commemorate, the journey that this slide has been on is remarkable.

Laura Dunham leads the Illumination and Commemoration Project focusing on the WWI slides of Samuel Hurst Seager at the Department of Art History & Theory, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Contact: laura.dunham@canterbury.ac.nz

News from Other Projects



Prof Erkki Huhtamo has released a new **video on Peep Media**, in which he explains and demonstrates various fascinating devices, from stereo cards to *vues d'optique* and a kinoscope. Watch the 23-minute video on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRb8lus0e6A&feature=youtu.be>

The **Artefacts Consortium Meeting** will take place from October 14-16, 2018 in Chicago, USA. Artefacts Consortium is an international association of historians in museums and academic institutions who promote the use of objects in serious historical studies. See <https://www.adlerplanetarium.org/artefacts>

Complete your bookshelf with publications on magic lantern culture! The publications of the Magic Lantern Society are difficult to get in average bookshops but can be ordered via the website. Recent titles are ***Dutch Perspectives* (2014)** on magic lantern culture and media entertainment in the Netherlands 1659 through to the late 20th century, and Jeremy Brooker's ***The Temple of Minerva* (2013)** about the Polytechnic Institution in London and its media-supported entertainment in its 175 years of existence.



See for more information <http://www.magiclantern.org.uk/sales/>



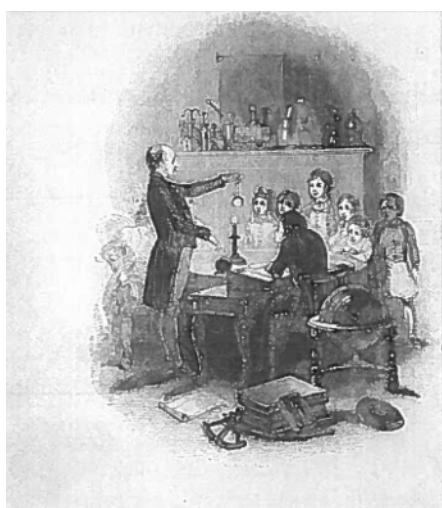
The project B-Magic: The Magic Lantern and its Cultural Impact as Visual Mass Medium in Belgium (1830-1940) (see last newsletter) has published its vacancies for **6 PhD positions**. Candidates are invited to submit their applications by July 2. More information regarding the positions, terms of appointment, and the project can be found on the website www.B-magic.eu. Also, **B-Magic's first symposium** took place on 18 May in Antwerp. Next to the programme, the documentation will be available soon on their project website.

From the Archives: Media Education in 1844

by Frank Kessler

In 1844, the English translation of an award-winning French book by Mlle S. Ulliac Trémadeure was published under the title *The Hunchback; or, The Clog Maker's Family*. It addressed children to teach them about all sorts of issues, from natural phenomena to economy, from moral questions to technology. The young heroes of the story are instructed by several grown-ups. One of the chapters is dedicated to the Magic Lantern.

An Auvergnese is invited to give a performance of an hour, projecting entertaining slides and amusing the children with his comments. After the show, Henry, the hunchback in the book's title, explains the optical principles



HUNCHBACK;
OR,
THE CLOG MAKER'S FAMILY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

Mlle S. Ulliac Trémadeure.

LONDON:
HAYWARD & ADAM, PATERNOSTER ROW.
MANCHESTER: HAYWARD & CO.
1844.

on which the lantern projections are based and the way the apparatus works, thus adding instruction to amusement. The chapter ends with the advice to engage in this kind of entertainment but once a year to avoid becoming

“wearied by pleasure”. In the following chapter, there is a brief postlude to the story. The children encounter the Auvergnese once more, and he tells them about his life. They return home disillusioned, because the man turns out to be “a mere idler” and a somewhat problematic character. So here, in the end, the negative image of the traveling showman resurfaces.

If you like a copy of the relevant pages of this entry you can order the scan from Frank Kessler. E-mail: F.E.Kessler@uu.nl.

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 activities are available on our project website: 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 contributions are written by Richard Crangle, Laura Dunham, Frank Kessler and Nele Wynants.