

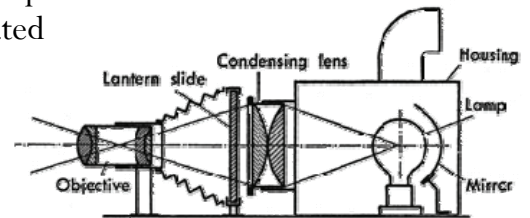


FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE JONES RIVER, BELOW WAPPING ROAD

one, and the slide shows entertained and educated audiences, including those at the many Society talks. After all, what lecture would be complete without pictures?

Now a dead and almost forgotten technology, lantern slides were a hugely popular media from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th. These transparencies have a positive image sandwiched between two plates of glass sealed with tape, which can be projected with an apparatus known as a magic lantern. The relative ease of production meant that even amateur photographers could create their own.

While painted images were projected as early as the 17th century, photographic lantern slides appeared in 1849, only a decade after the invention of photography. A slide of 4" x 3 1/4", the size of most in this collection, could be projected about two feet square, first by oil or kerosene lamps, then by electrically powered arc-lights. This new way of viewing images expanded photography from an individual experience to a communal



"THE BEND O' THE RIVER," THE JUNCTION OF THE JONES RIVER AND STONY BROOK, 1910

*Historic background based on "Lantern Slides: History and Manufacture" (Library of Congress, American Memories website); "History" (online finding aid, Mira Lloyd Dock Collection, University Library, Pennsylvania State University); and "Magic Lanterns" ("Adventures in Cybersound," Australian Centre for the Moving Image), also the source of "The Magic Lantern - Simplified Operating Principle," cited as Pfragner, J., 'The Motion Picture : from Magic Lantern to Sound Film.'*