

Ways to exhibit original lantern slides in the galleries of the Art Gallery of South Australia

The Art Gallery of South Australia have taken the innovative step of displaying some of their hand-coloured magic lantern slide collection directly in their galleries. Using an electroluminescent panel and conventional matting, four of their slides have been on display as part of an installation dealing with the craze for ferns in the late nineteenth century. Two of the virulently coloured slides feature images by the prominent landscape photographer and lanternist, Nicholas Caire.



Maria Zagala and Alice Clanachan with an installation of four lantern slides in the Art Gallery of South Australia. Photo credit: Martyn Jolly.

Julie Robinson, Alice Clanachan and Maria Zagala from Prints, Drawing and Photographs showed Lead CI Martyn Jolly the Gallery's magic lantern slide collection, most of which is digitised, catalogued, and available [online](#).

Compared to other state and national galleries, the AGSA holds a comparatively large number of slides. Most, numbering almost five hundred, were part of the R J Noye collection, assembled by the important South Australian photo historian Bob Noye, which came to the gallery in 2004. Bob Noye's pioneering research, *Photohistory SA*, is still supported on the [Gallery's website](#).

Amongst the slides are a large set from the 1870s and 80s by the Darwin policeman and photographer, Paul Foelsche, which complements a similar collection of Paul Foelsche lantern slides held the Northern Territory Archives Service. There are also documents of the damage wrought by the Darwin cyclone of 1897, attributed to Florenz Bleezer, and many unattributed slides of South Australia.



L-R: Paul Foelsche, 'Woman on Horseback', c1875., lantern slide. R.J. Noye Collection. Gift of Douglas and Barbara Mullins 2004, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. F A Joyner, Adelaide Illuminated, 1901, lantern slide, Gift of an anonymous donor 1988, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

The gallery also has a small but significant collection of high quality slides made by the Melbourne photographer J W Lindt in Fiji in the early 1890s. Lindt is reported as showing slides of Fiji to visitors to his Hermitage Guest House in the 1890s. Amongst the gallery's collection are also slides made by the prominent Pictorialist F A Joyner, testament to the important, but hitherto neglected, role the lantern played in the meetings and salons of Pictorialist clubs and societies across Australia in the early twentieth century.



L-R: 'Paul Foelsche with pipe, Imperial Service medal pinned to jacket', c.1904, lantern slide, R.J. Noye Collection. Gift of Douglas and Barbara Mullens 2004, Art Gallery of South Australia; 'J W Lindt, 'Waterfall at Vitoga', c.1892, Art Gallery of South Australia Collection.