



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

Made in Germany, and using light from an oil lamp, this device projected painted slides onto a wall. This was a popular Victorian Era pastime for middle and upper class families. This projector is from 1900. Artifact courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum.

SUGGESTED USES

1. "Magic Lantern" slide projectors had been in existence since the 17th century. First used by scientists to study light, they became novelties for the rich and then sources of entertainment for families. The following questions can be addressed after analysis of the artifact determines that this is a slide projector:
 - a. The first commercially successful camera is produced in 1901. If it did not exist in 1900, what kinds of slides do you think were viewed through this device?
 - b. If this was used by middle and upper class families, what kinds of images do you think they projected using this device?
 - c. If the camera did not exist to make slides, how do you think the slides were created? How would the slides have been made?
 - d. What changes have occurred in society that would make this item commonplace in American homes?
 - e. This item was manufactured in Germany and used in the United States. What insights into world trade can we gain from this information? (Be sure to include the necessity for high quality glass, the technical skills to grind the lenses, the ability to transport this item safely as considerations to be addressed.)