

TALES OF LOVE AND TRAVEL



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Dear Reader (2023-02-24),

Today we go down a different lane in photographic history, and I offer a new set of possible rabbit holes.

Once upon a time before the flick and click of Instagram, before the horrors of PowerPoint, before the slide projector, and after the camera obscura, there was the magic lantern. "The popularity of magic lanterns waned after the introduction of movies in the 1890s, but they remained a common medium until slide projectors became widespread during the 1950s" (1). This last sentence is from a fascinating article in Wikipedia titled "Magic Lantern" (1).

During the Victorian era, book publishers created and packaged slide sets and readings together for public and private projection events. To this day there continues to be Magic Lantern Societies in North America and in the UK (2). It appears the reading for today's collection of images has been catalogued by the UK Society (3). I do not have the reading, but another Victorian or Edwardian era treasure coming from my late parent's estate is this set of 15 magic lantern slides, found in a musty box of unknown origin wrapped in crinkled tissue paper telling tales of love and travel.

THE OWL & THE PUSSYCAT

AND

THE DUCK & THE KANGAROO

BY
EDWARD LEAR



with
Original
Illustrations by
William Foster

FREDERICK WARNE AND CO.

01

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went
to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,



They took some honey, and
plenty of money
Wrapped up in a five-pound
note.

02

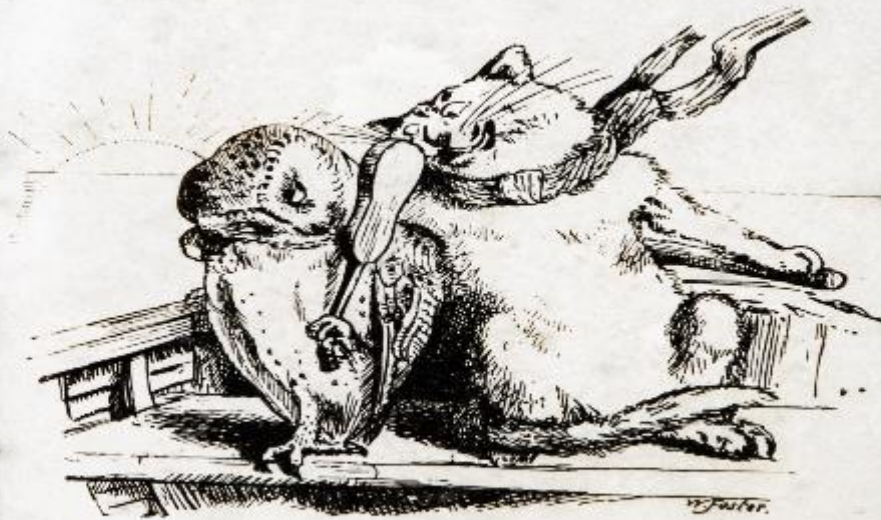
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar.



"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

03

Pussy said to the Owl, "You
elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!



O let us be married! too long we
have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"

04

They sailed away for a year and
a day,
To the land where the Bong-
tree grows,



And there in a wood a Piggy-wig
stood.

05

With a ring at the end of his
nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his
nose.



"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell
for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy. "I
will."

06

So they took it away, and were
married next day
By the Turkey who lives on
the hill.



They dined on mince, and slices
of quince
Which they ate with a runcible
spoon:

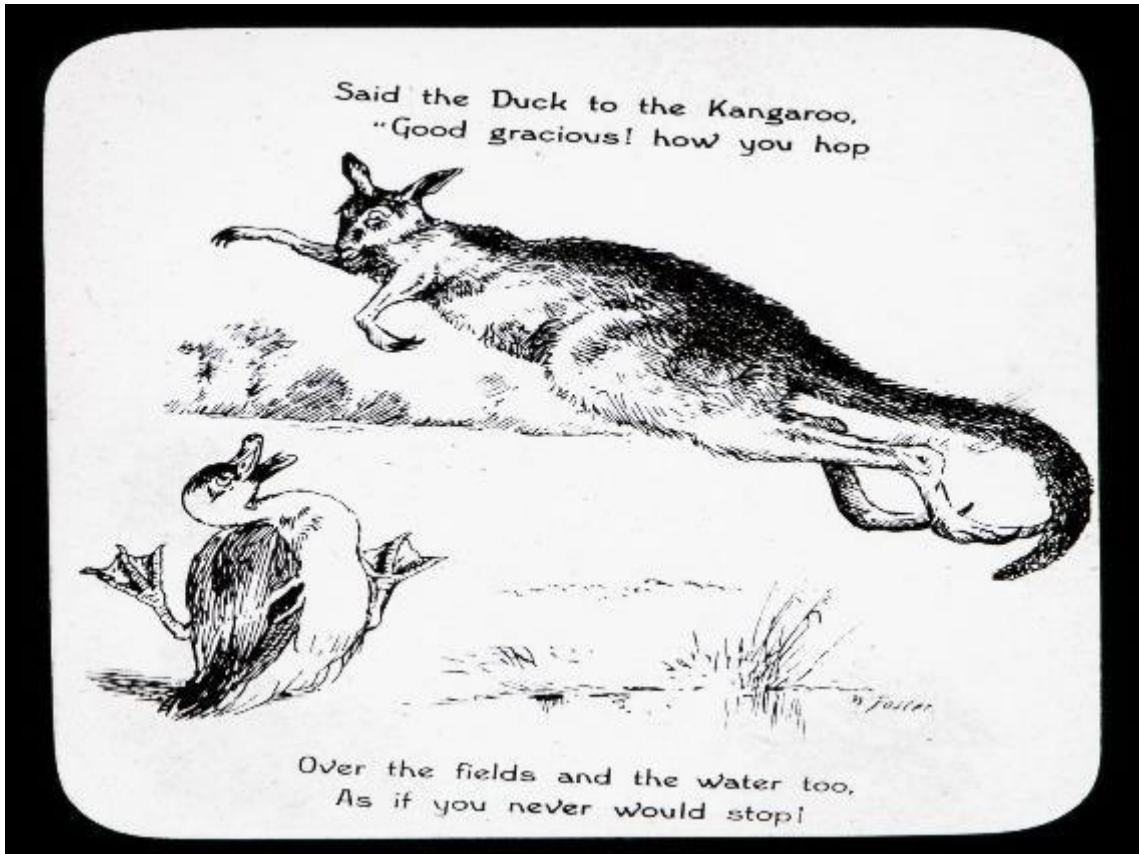
07

And hand in hand, on the edge
of the sand.



They danced by the light of
the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of
the moon.

08



09



10

And we'd go to the Dee, and
the Jelly Bo llee,
Over the land, and over the
sea;—



Please take me a ride! O do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

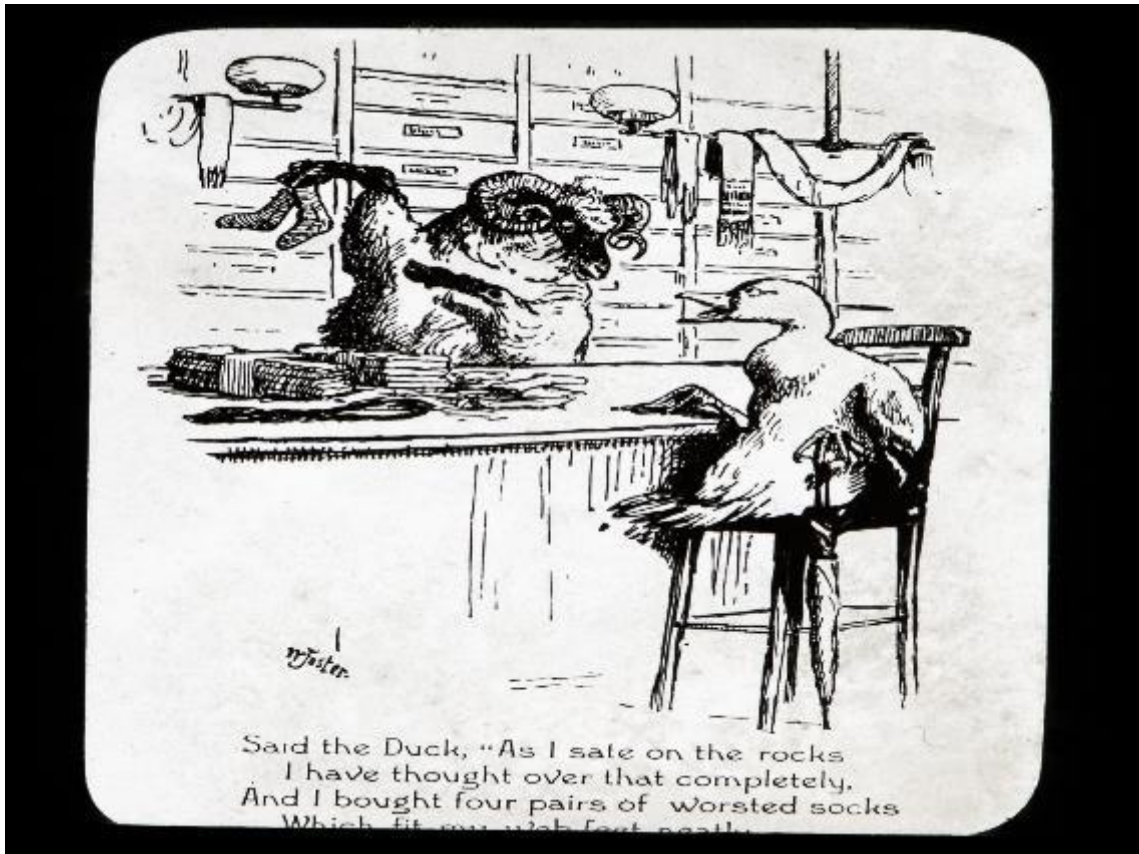
11

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might
bring me luck,
And there 'seems but one objection,



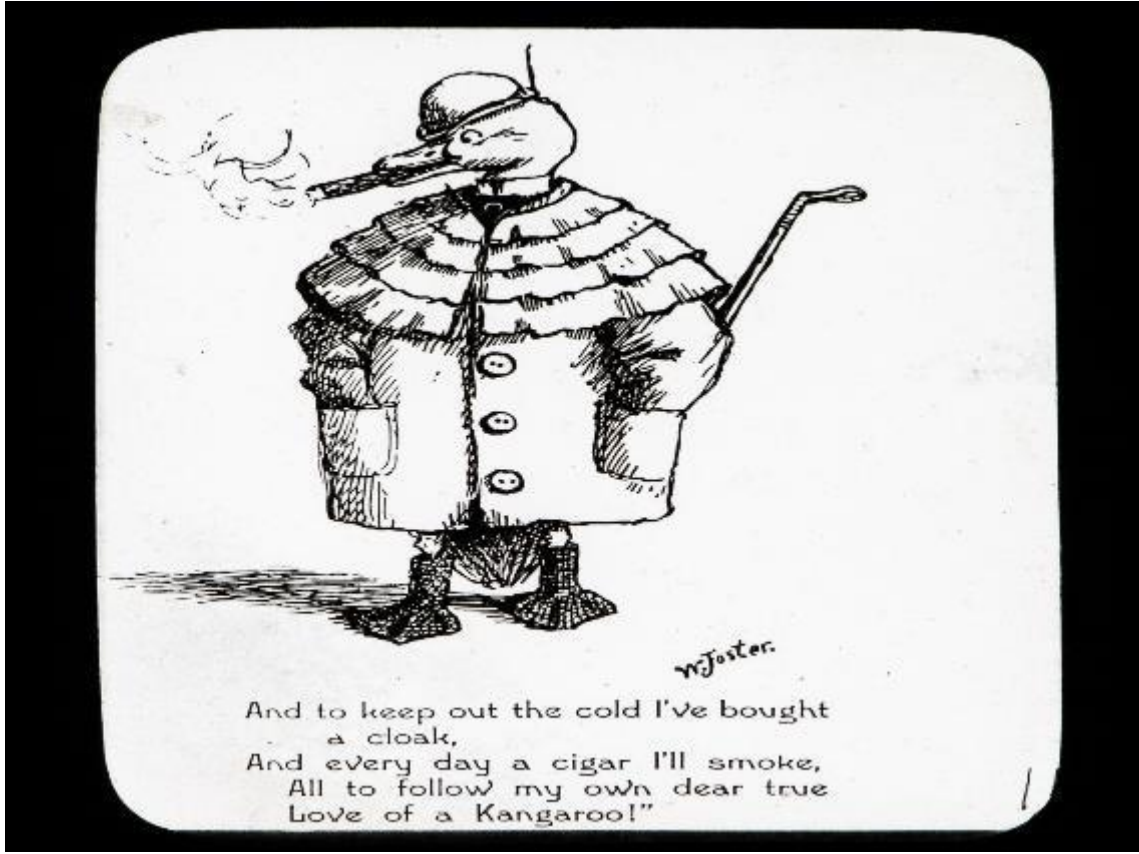
Which is, if you'll let me speak so
bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and
cold,
And would probably give me the
roo-
Matie!" said the Kangaroo.

12



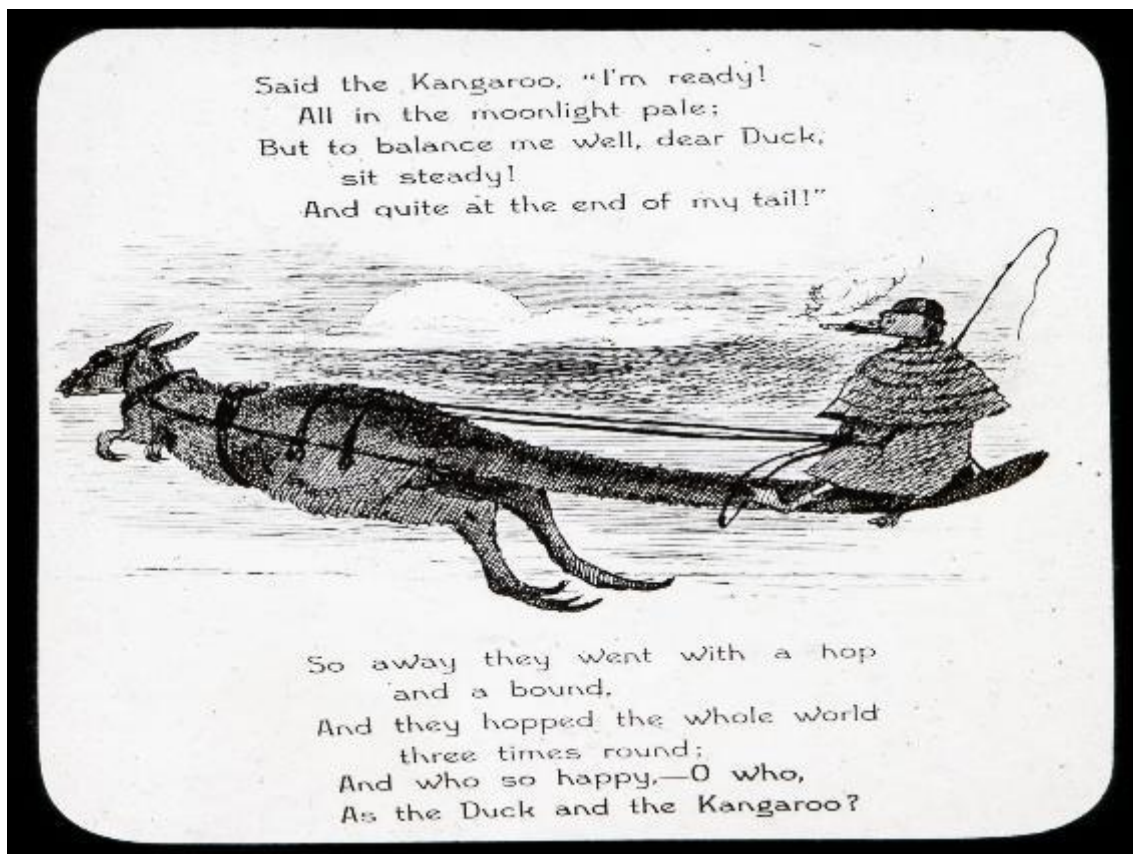
Said the Duck, "As I sale on the rocks
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my wish feet neatly."

13



And to keep out the cold I've bought
a cloak,
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!"

14



15

At least some of you liked reading the process for Wednesday's images. Here is the workflow for today's set. The camera set-up was the same for this set as the one from two days ago, with the exception of the mask used to block excess light from the light panel. Each slide is approximately 3 ¼ inches square.

1 Lightroom

a) Straighten.

2 Photoshop

a) Crop to consistent size and ratio for set.

3 Lightroom

a) Flip Horizontal, as slides were photographed with the printed side closest to the camera.

b) Make same set of adjustments to all slides.

c) Make minor adjustments to each slides (primarily sliding whites right and reducing contrast applied in previous step).

d) Remove spots and imperfections where they are particularly distracting. I considered cleaning the side of the glass slide on which there was no print. I then discarded the idea as as I had visions of something going awry (ie screwing it up). The healing brush in Lightroom has its limits, and therefore I did use Photoshop a couple of times to remove major scratches.

e) Done except for the export.

You are welcome to share a link to this page with others.

As always, all comments are welcome and sought.

Cheers, Sean

Sources

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_lantern
- <https://www.magiclantern.org.uk/>
- <https://www.magiclantern.org.uk/readings/reading.php?id=4003668>