



# Smithsonian *Gardens*

John Hiller lantern slide collection, circa 1915-1930

Archives of American Gardens  
P.O. Box 37012  
Capital Gallery West, Suite 3300, MRC 506  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
aag@si.edu  
<http://www.aag.si.edu>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents Note.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	3
Series 1: Garden Images.....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Gardens
<b>Title:</b>	John Hiller lantern slide collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAG.HIL
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1910-1930
<b>Creator:</b>	Hiller, John (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.75 Cubic feet (216 lantern slides;; color autochromes; ; 3.25 x 4 inches.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	The John Hiller Lantern Slide Collection contains 216 glass autochromes dated circa 1910-1930 documenting homes and gardens, house interiors, scenes from domestic and foreign travel, flower arrangements, and people in Europe and unidentified locations.

---

## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

John Hiller, an employee in the Smithsonian's Office of Exhibits Central, donated the collection to the Archives of American Gardens in 2005. The collection had been on deposit in the Archives for a few years prior to it being formally donated.

### Provenance

John Hiller, an employee in the Smithsonian's Office of Exhibits Central, acquired the collection from John Wellemeyer sometime in the 1990s. According to Hiller, Wellemeyer was involved with filmmaking and purchased the box of autochromes at a yard sale, possibly in Alexandria, Virginia.

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, John Hiller lantern slide collection.

### Restrictions

Access to original images by appointment only. Researcher must submit request for appointment in writing. Certain items may be restricted and not available to researchers. Please direct reference inquiries to the Archives of American Gardens: [aag@si.edu](mailto:aag@si.edu).

### Conditions Governing Use

Archives of American Gardens encourages the use of its archival materials for non-commercial, educational and personal use under the fair use provision of U.S. copyright law. Use or copyright restrictions may exist. It is incumbent upon the researcher to ascertain copyright status and assume responsibility for usage. All requests for duplication and use must be submitted in writing and approved by Archives of American Gardens.

---

## Scope and Contents Note

The John Hiller Collection contains 216 glass autochromes dated c. 1910-1930. The images cover a wide array of subjects and regions, with many of them showing landscapes and travel destinations. Some show house interiors, flower arrangements, or casual groups of people. Several of the autochromes show historic towns and ruins in Greece and Switzerland along with some in Croatia, Italy, Bulgaria and Austria. Scattered amongst these are slides of various unidentified sites and gardens. It is not known if any of the unidentified images show sites in the United States.

The photographer(s) of these images is unknown. The uniformity of the type of tape used to seal each of the autochromes suggests that the images may be the work of one photographer or photo studio rather than a collection compiled by an individual from multiple sources, but this is speculative at best.

---

## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

While most of the lantern slides are autochromes, there is a possibility that some are dioptichromes.

The autochromes in the John Hiller Collection were originally housed in a wooden box divided into ten sections. A sheet of typewritten numbered image captions was pasted to the inside of the hinged box lid. Many of the autochromes bear a hand-written alphanumeric code on their border (e.g. A-17, D-11, etc.) that is keyed to a specific caption. A few images have a small sticker with a hand-written number affixed to them. The sheet of image captions lists four broad subject categories at the top: House & Garden, Copies, Experimental, and Portraits. Below these are listed individual captions for (87) European sites. While the subject categories are written in English, some of the captions feature foreign words (Suisse for Switzerland, Wien for Vienna, etc.)

The autochromes were found in no discernible order and did not follow the order of the numbered captions.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Flower arrangement  
Gardens -- Europe

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Garden Images

Processing Information: The following is a list of images included in the John Hiller Collection arranged according to the order in which they were found in their original wooden box. The location, if known, is indicated, followed by a description of the image.

Box 1 Greece -- Spetza  
1 Autochromes (photographs) (3.25 X 4 in.)  
[Image\(s\): Greece--Spatza](#)  
[Image\(s\): Greece--Spatza](#)  
Notes: Original image number: TFL-01.  
Topic: Lakes  
Vista

Box 1 HLR001: Switzerland -- Bern -- Interlaken  
1 Autochromes (photographs) (3.25 X 4 in.)  
[Image\(s\): Switzerland--Bern--Interlaken - Valley, view of city, buildings, cloud over lake](#)

### Switzerland -- Lucerne

HLR069: [Unidentified Hotel Garden]: formal beds, annuals, garland vines on fence., circa 1920-1930.  
1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)  
[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Hotel Garden\] \[lantern slide\]: formal beds, annuals, garland vines on fence.](#)  
Notes: Historic image number: A39.  
Historic caption: Hotel Garden -- Lucerne -- Suisse.  
Topic: Fences -- wrought iron  
Spruce  
Streets  
Flowers  
Houses  
Vines  
Parterres  
Gardens -- Switzerland  
Place: Unidentified Hotel Garden (Lucerne, Switzerland)  
Switzerland -- State/Prov -- Lucerne  
Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

---

### Unidentified Location

HLR073: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: flower beds and stone path adjacent to house., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: flower beds and stone path adjacent to house.

Topic: Houses  
Paths  
Steps  
Shrubs  
Benches, stone  
Outdoor furniture  
Hedges  
Flower beds

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR083: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: unidentified man by lily pond., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: unidentified man by lily pond.

Topic: Shrubs  
People  
Flowers  
Lilies  
Stones  
Lily ponds  
Lawns

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR085: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: lawn in shade by house with semicircular porch, columns, chairs, and irises., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: lawn in shade by house with semicircular porch, columns, chairs, and irises.

Notes: Historic image number: 33.  
Historic caption: House & Garden.

Topic: Flowers  
Lawns  
Irises (Plants)  
Outdoor furniture  
Trees  
Houses  
Porches  
Columns

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR088: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: lawn with stone path, bench, bulbs, and rhododendrons., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: lawn with stone path, bench, bulbs, and rhododendrons.

Notes: Historic image number: 32.

Historic caption: House & Garden.

Topic: Flowers  
Lawns  
Trees  
Rhododendrons  
Stones  
Shrubs  
Benches  
Bulbs  
Garden walks

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR093: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: stone gate posts and wooden picket fence with flowering shrubs., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: stone gate posts and wooden picket fence with flowering shrubs.

Topic: Trees  
Shrubs  
Path  
Fences  
Roads  
Gates

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR114: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: stone house with path, steps, and pink flower border., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: stone house with path, steps, and pink flower border.

Topic: Trees  
Stones  
Steps  
Garden borders  
Houses  
Flowers  
Lawns

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
Lantern slides

HLR118: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: unidentified woman sitting amongst flowers on lawn., circa 1920-1930.

1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)  
 Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]:  
 unidentified woman sitting amongst flowers on lawn.  
 Notes: Historic image number: 36.  
 Historic caption: House & Garden.  
 Topic: Trees  
 Flowers  
 Lawns  
 Irises (Plants)  
 People  
 Shrubs  
 Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).  
 Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
 Lantern slides

HLR125: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: house with flower  
 bed, arbor, lattice and gate., circa 1920-1930.  
 1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)  
 Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: house  
 with flower bed, arbor, lattice and gate.  
 Topic: Lawns  
 Irises (Plants)  
 Shrubs  
 Arbors  
 Paths  
 Steps  
 Houses  
 Porches  
 Flower beds  
 Latticework  
 Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).  
 Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
 Lantern slides

HLR137: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: unidentified woman in  
 garden with stone walk, planting beds, and roses., circa 1920-1930.  
 1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)  
 Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]:  
 unidentified woman in garden with stone walk, planting beds, and roses.  
 Topic: Lawns  
 Shrubs  
 Paths  
 Flower beds  
 Stones  
 Roses  
 Houses  
 People  
 Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).  
 Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)  
 Lantern slides

HLR145: [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location]: view of sunken  
 garden with flower beds and hedges., circa 1920-1930.



1 Autochromes (photographs) (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location\]](#) [lantern slide]: view of sunken garden with flower beds and hedges.

Topic:           Lawns  
                  Shrubs  
                  Paths  
                  Flower beds  
                  Stones  
                  Roses  
                  Hedges  
                  Sunken gardens  
Place:           Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).  
Genre/Form:    Autochromes (photographs)  
                  Lantern slides

---

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*