



Smithsonian Gardens

John Hiller lantern slide collection, circa 1920-1930

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Gardens
Title:	John Hiller lantern slide collection
Identifier:	AAG.HIL
Date:	circa 1920-1930
Extent:	0.75 Cubic Feet (216 lantern slides;; color autochromes; ; 3.25 x 4 inches.)
Creator:	Hiller, John
Language:	English
Summary:	The John Hiller Lantern Slide Collection contains 216 glass autochromes dated circa 1920-1930 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.

Conditions Governing Use

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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. 1920s-1930's. The images cover a wide array of subjects and regions, with many of them showing landscapes and travel destinations. Some show house interiors, plant 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.

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 alpha-numeric 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:

Cultures:

Flower arrangement
Gardens -- Europe

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides

Container Listing

Series 1: Garden Images

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.

- Greece--Naxos
- Box 1 Greece--Spetza
 1 autochromes (photographs) (3.25 X 4 in.)
 Image(s): [Greece--Spatza](#)
 Image(s)
 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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Hotel Garden\] \[lantern slide\]: formal beds, annuals, garland vines on fence.](#)

Historic image number: A39.

Historic caption: Hotel Garden -- Lucerne -- Suisse.

Topic: Fences -- wrought iron
 Flowers
 Gardens -- Switzerland
 Houses
 Parterres
 Spruce
 Streets
 Vines

Place: Switzerland -- State/Prov -- Lucerne
 Unidentified Hotel Garden (Lucerne, Switzerland)

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)
 Lantern slides

HLR003: Photomicrograph of an autochrome screen pattern

HLR004: Photomicrograph of an autochrome screen pattern

Unidentified

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

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

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

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

Topic: Flowers
Lawns
Lilies
Lily ponds
People
Shrubs
Stones

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

Historic image number: 33.

Historic caption: House & Garden.

Topic: Columns
Flowers
Houses

Irises (Plants)
Lawns
Outdoor furniture
Porches
Trees

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

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

Historic image number: 32.

Historic caption: House & Garden.

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

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

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

Topic: Fences
Gates
Path
Roads
Shrubs
Trees

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

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

Topic: Flowers
 Garden borders
 Houses
 Lawns
 Steps
 Stones
 Trees

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: unidentified woman sitting amongst flowers on lawn.

Historic image number: 36.

Historic caption: House & Garden.

Topic: Flowers
 Irises (Plants)
 Lawns
 People
 Shrubs
 Trees

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location] [lantern slide]: house with flower bed, arbor, lattice and gate.

Topic: Arbors
 Flower beds
 Houses
 Irises (Plants)
 Latticework
 Lawns
 Paths
 Porches
 Shrubs
 Steps

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Unidentified Location\] \[lantern slide\]: unidentified woman in garden with stone walk, planting beds, and roses.](#)

Topic: Flower beds
Houses
Lawns
Paths
People
Roses
Shrubs
Stones

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 autochrome (lantern slide.)

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

Topic: Flower beds
Hedges
Lawns
Paths
Roses
Shrubs
Stones
Sunken gardens

Place: Unidentified Garden (Unknown location).

Genre/Form: Autochromes (photographs)
Lantern slides

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