



# Smithsonian Gardens

John Hiller lantern slide collection, circa 1920-1930

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## 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 1920-1930
<b>Extent:</b>	0.75 cubic feet (216 lantern slides; color autochromes; ; 3.25 x 4 inches.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Hiller, John
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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## 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

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## 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 autochrome (photographs) (3.25 X 4 in.)  
[Image\(s\): Greece--Spatza](#)  
[Image\(s\)](#)  
Original image number: TFL-01.
- Topic:** Lakes  
Vista
- Box 1 Item HLR001: Switzerland--Bern--Interlaken  
1 autochrome (photographs) (3.25 X 4 in.)  
[Image\(s\): Switzerland--Bern--Interlaken - Valley, view of city, buildings, cloud over lake](#)

### Switzerland -- Lucerne

Item 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

Item HLR003: Photomicrograph of an autochrome screen pattern

Item HLR004: Photomicrograph of an autochrome screen pattern

## Unidentified

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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

Item 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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