

Film History

The Beginnings

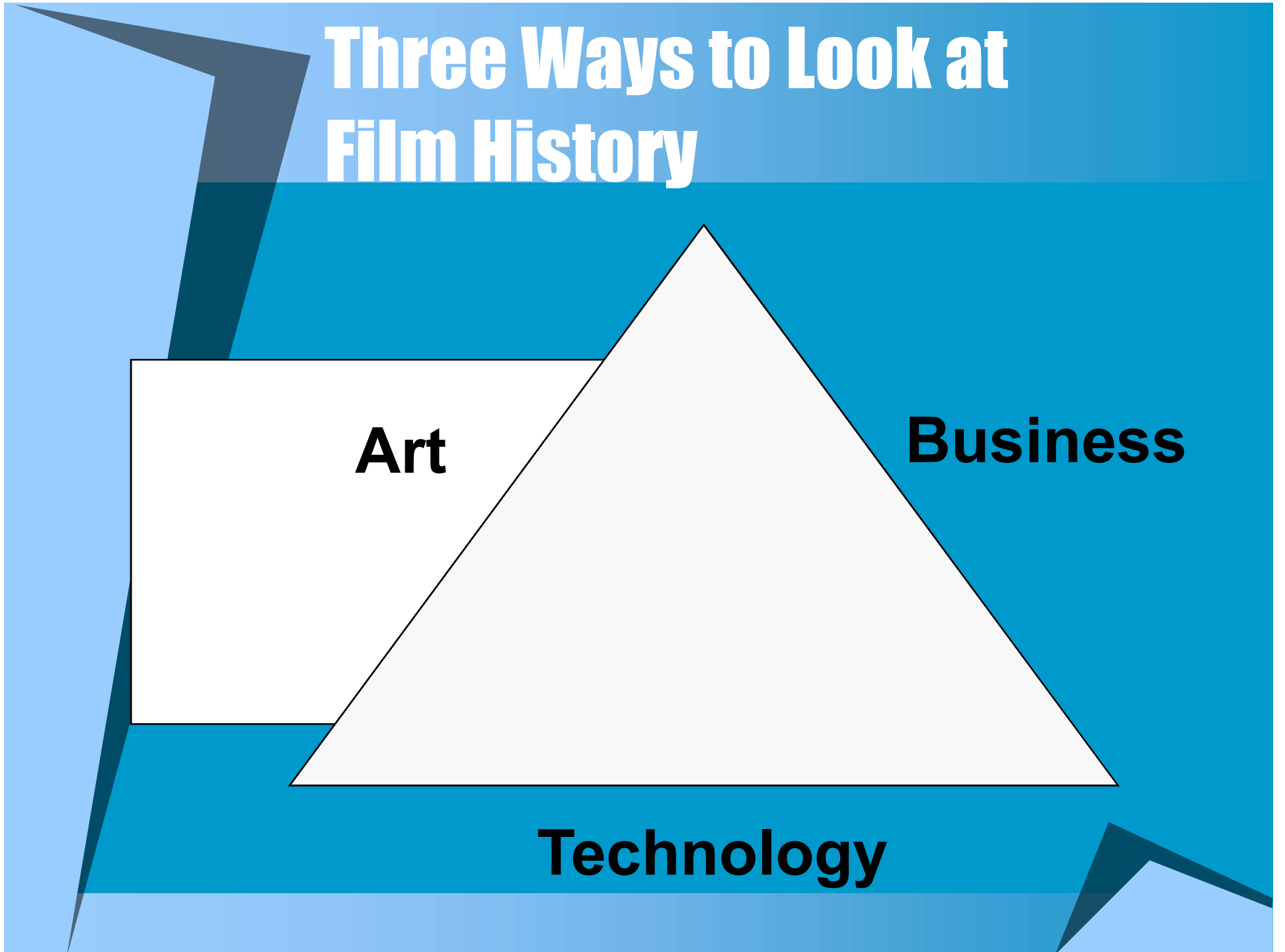
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Three Ways to Look at Film History

Art

Business

Technology



Inventors



- **Early film is a result of inventors, not artists.**

Persistence of Vision

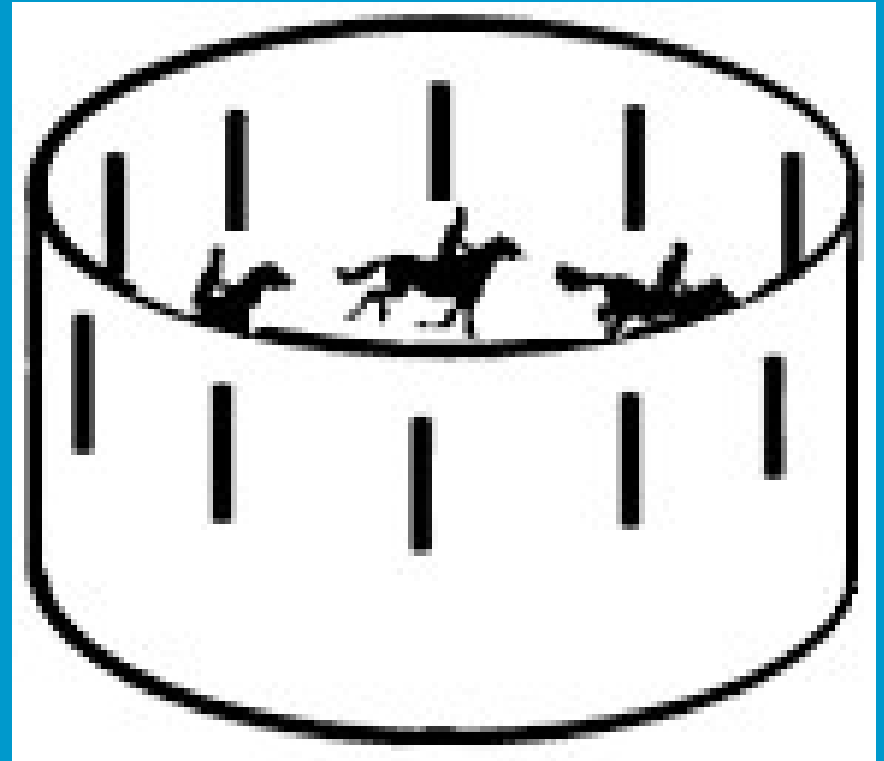
- **The ability of the brain to retain an image a split second longer than the eye actually sees it.**
- **If we see 16 individual images in rapid succession the brain connects them to make a fluid sequence of movement.**

Toy Makers

- **Toy makers used this theory to create hand held machines that were the basis of film development.**

Zoetrope

- **Circular drum with slits.**
- **allows moments of darkness.**
- **creates illusion of movement.**
- **1834 by William Horner.**



Experimentation

- **Was going on in many countries at the same time.**
- **France, Germany, England, and the U.S. all claim to have invented the movies.**





Photography

**Had to have photography
before motion pictures**

Important Dates

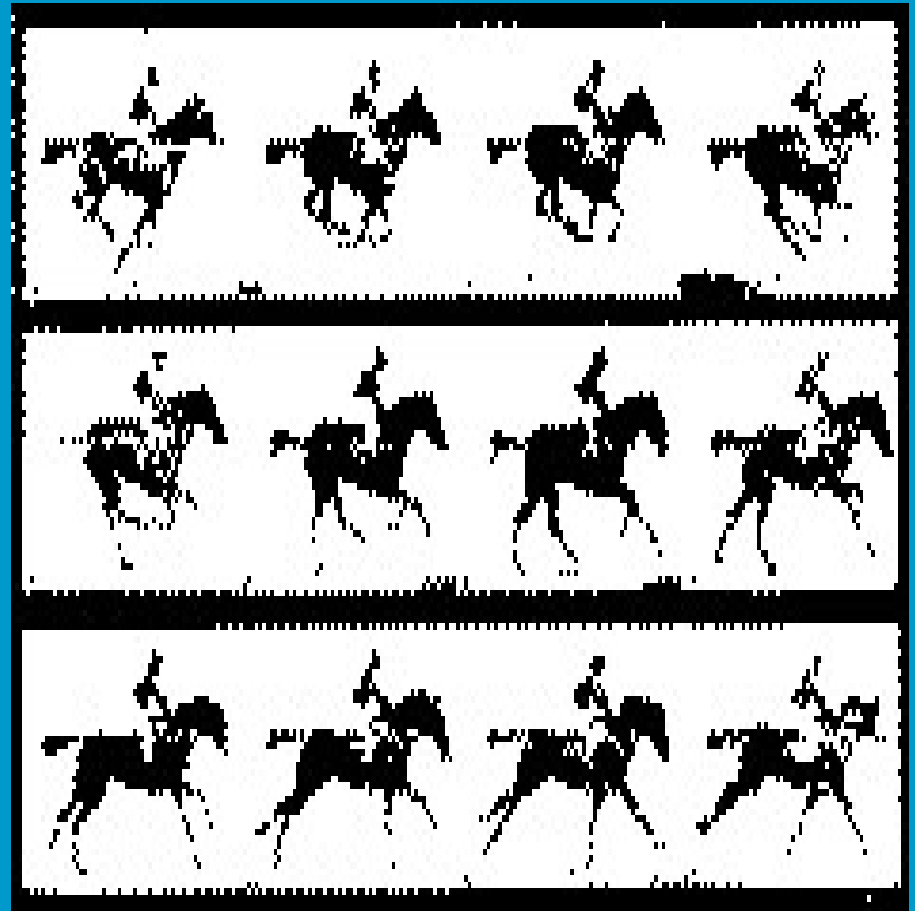
- **1816 - Nicephore Niepce made first photographic images.**
- **1839 - Louis Daguerre created clear, sharp images on silver copperplate.**
 - **Required 15 minutes exposure time.**
- **1841 - Only 3 minutes needed for exposure.**



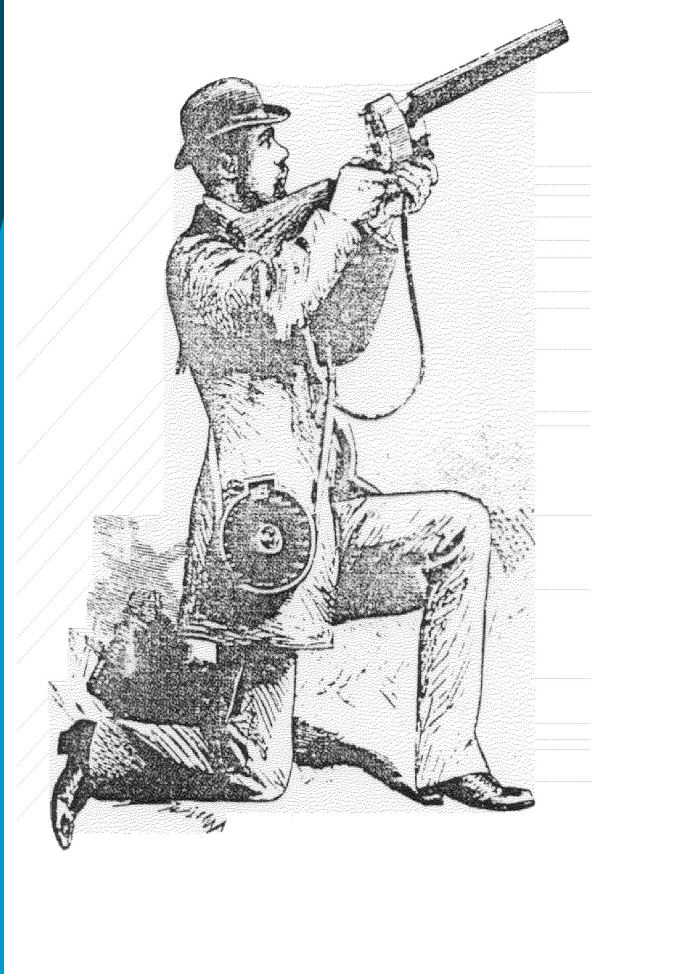
Daguerre Self-portrait

Eadweard Muybridge

- **1872 - Set up 12 cameras along a track, tied strings to the shutters which were tripped as the horse ran down the track.**
- **Created movement with photography.**



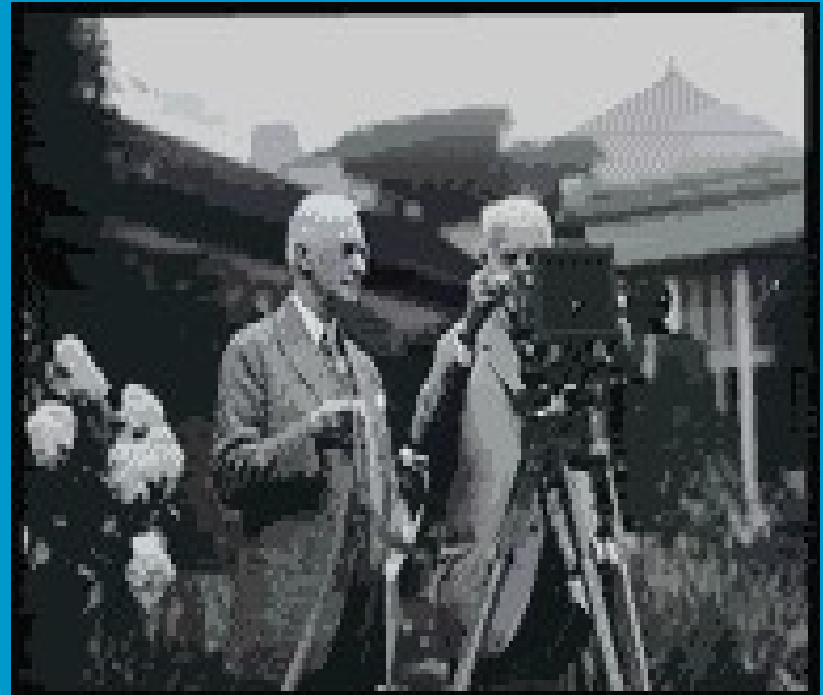
Etienne-Jules Marey



- **1882**
- **Invents
“photographic gun.”**
- **Lens in the muzzle,
paper in the chamber.**
- **Pull trigger and have
12 rapid exposures.**
- **Eventually 100
exposures.**

George Eastman

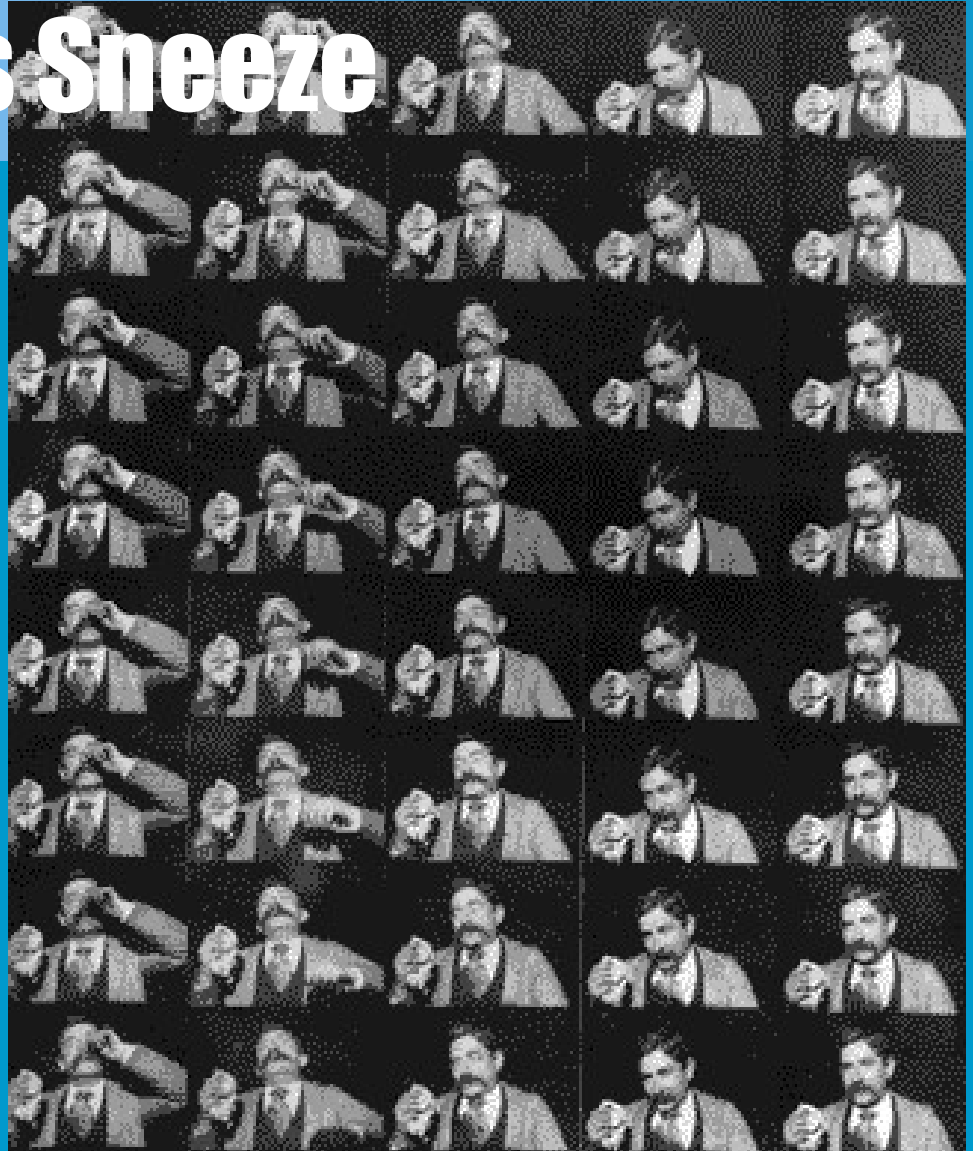
- **1884**
- **Developed celluloid film.**
- **Originally created for the still camera, it made motion pictures possible.**
- **Flexible and allows light to pass through.**




Eastman and Edison make movies

Fred Ott's Sneeze

- **1889**
- **William Dickson (working for Thomas Edison) begins using celluloid film.**
- **First film in America.**





Motion Picture Photography Solved!

**Filmmakers now had to
find a way to show their
images.**

Kinetoscope



Kinetoscope Open

- **October 1889**
Dickson shows Edison projection with sound.
- **Quality is poor.**
- **Edison opts for silent, individual showings of films.**
- **Invents Kinetoscope.**

Kinetoscope

- **Kinetoscopes were set up in parlors .**
- **You would see dancing, juggling, clowning, wonders of the world, a few re-enactments.**
- **No stories yet.**



Kinetoscope Closed

Thomas Edison

- **Despite Edison's shortsightedness in mass projection he did leave his mark on motion pictures.**
- **He contributed sprocket holes on film.**
- **Black Maria.**
 - **First movie studio.**

Black Maria

- **Camera could only move forward and backward.**
- **Roof opened to allow sunlight in.**
- **Building rotated to catch sun's rays.**
- **Camera used electricity.**



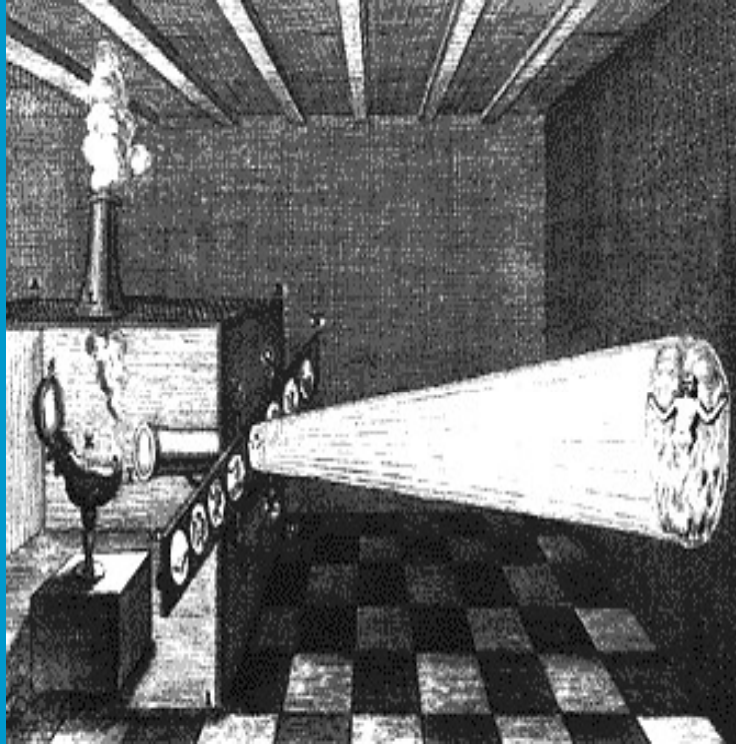


**These are a few of the
contributions from
America. The history now
goes back to Europe.**

Projection

Projection was a difficult problem to solve. Its roots go back as far as 1646.

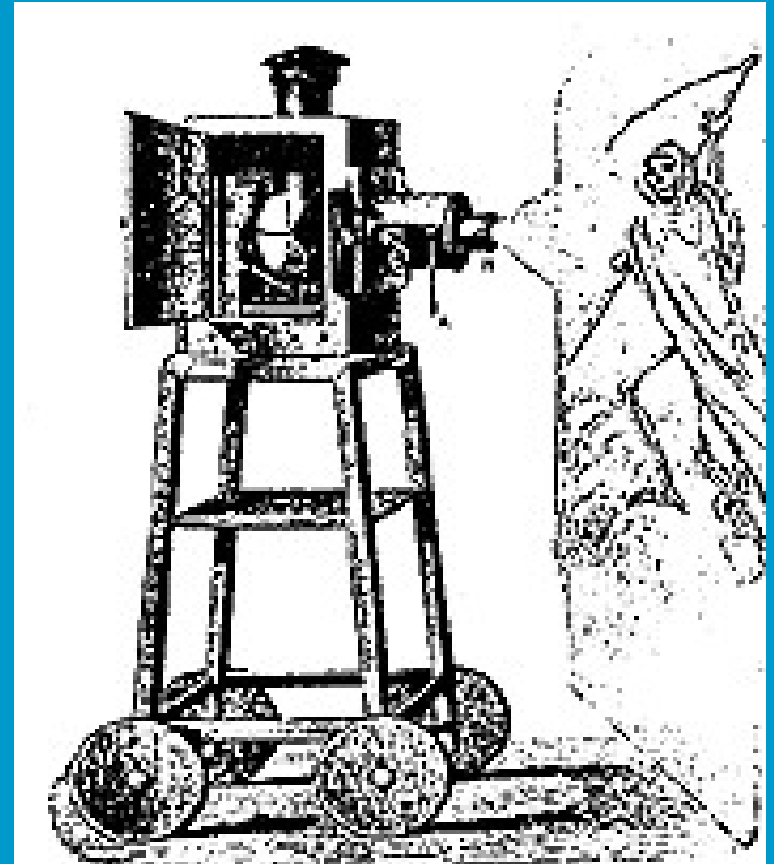
Magic Lantern



- **1646**
- **Father Athanasius Kircher made drawings of a box that could reproduce an image through a lens.**
- **Ancestor of present day slide projector.**

18th Century

- **Showmen travel across Europe showing magic lantern shows.**
- **Used drawn images in the beginning.**
- **Eventually used photographs.**



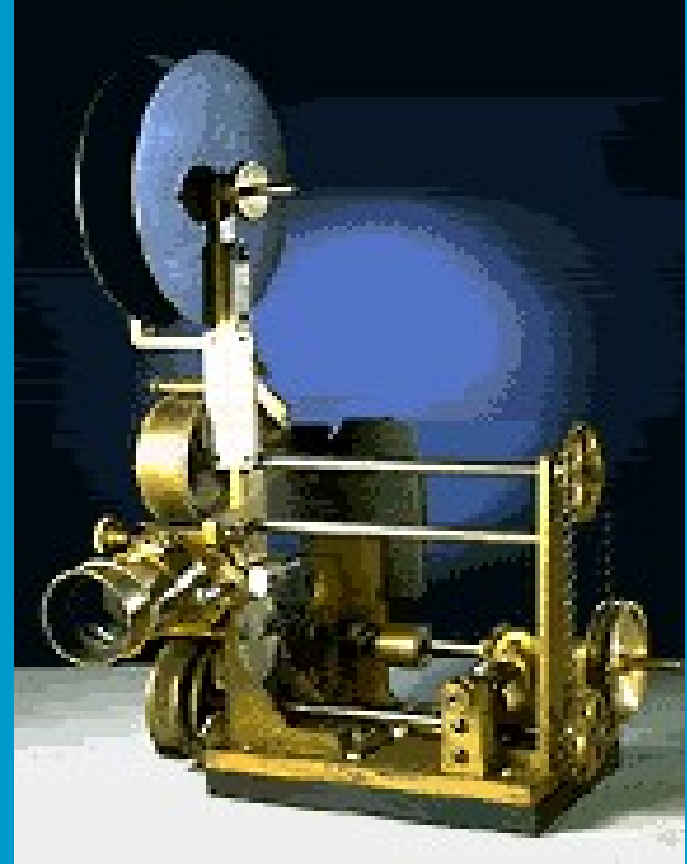
Phantasmagoria

19th Century

- **Photo plays drew viewers to a story just as film does today.**
- **Combination of magic lantern shows, live actors, and photography.**
- **Some lasted up to 2 hours and told melodramatic stories.**
- **Proved the potential of projected film.**

Projection Problems

- **Projector needs a powerful light source to make images clear.**
- **Film has to run smoothly past this light source without tearing.**



Vitascope Projector

Late 19th Century

- **Discovered intermittent movement was needed (similar to Zoetrope slits).**
- **Each frame stops briefly in front of the light source.**
- **Ended problem of the light source and tearing.**
- **Created problem of burning film.**
 - **Invented cooling system (similar to today's).**

Lumiere Brothers

- **1894**
- **Tinker with Edison's Kinetoscope.**
- **Designed their own machine within a year.**



Auguste and Louis

Cinematographe



- **Machine shot the pictures, printed them, and projected them.**
- **The camera was portable.**
 - **A hand crank provided the power.**

December 28, 1895

- **First theater opens to the paying public.**
- **Basement of a Paris café.**
- **Lumieres' show:**
 - **Workers leaving the Lumiere Factory.**
 - ***Arrival at Lyon.***
 - ***A Baby's Meal.***

