Magic lantern slide: *Choreutoscope, the Dancing Skeleton*

The choreutoscope (a type of crank-operated magic lantern slide) creates the illusion of movement through a shutter mechanism. Displaying one frame at a time, it is closely related to cinema. The skeleton, depicted on the slide in different postures, appears to be dancing. Along with magic lantern slides of bats and smoke, this choreutoscope animated popular phantasmagoria shows that actually projected images onto smoke (rather than onto a screen) to create ghosts and spirits.

Magic lantern slide: *Choreutoscope, the Dancing Skeleton*

English, about 1870  
Manufactured by John Beale  
English, active 1870s  
Wood, glass, and metal slide  
4 1/2 x 14 x 1/4 in.  
Lent by the Richard Balzer Collection, Watertown, Massachusetts