

A Time Machine Set for South Kensington, 1862

review by John Dennis

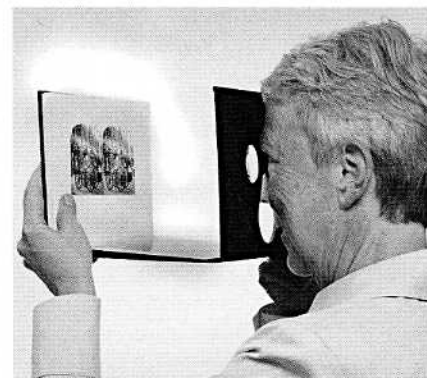
Any photo book that opens with a quote from Einstein is likely to be something special, and *3D Expo 1862* by NSA member Michael Tongue qualifies in several ways. One of Einstein's more challenging statements concerning the nature of time was, "The distinction between past, present and future is only an illusion, however persistent." The fact that his conclusion is increasingly backed up by theories and experiments in quantum physics makes the time travel aspect of viewing stereos dated from 1862 even more tantalizing.

On the book's website the author specifically promotes this effect: "My special interest is in the phenomenon of time, and the creation of ways to move in the mind

to another space and time. When you have seen *3D Expo 1862*, I think you'll agree that you experience a remarkable feeling of being there at the 1862 International Exhibition. You are drawn into the stereoscopic photographs as your eyes search the 3D-scene for details. One stereograph leads you on to the next, as you continue your 3D virtual reality walk through time."

A walk, in the form of a guided tour through the International Exhibition of 1862 in London's South Kensington, is exactly what the book provides. The built-in viewer in the hardback cover allows uninterrupted, 2.3x fusion of the 49 views that take you through the massive exhibition palace and its courts, galleries, twin domes and annexes. The London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company published somewhere between 350 and 1000 views of the exhibition taken by a staff that included William England, William Russell Sedgfield and Stephen Thompson, and many of the best are included.

The views were published on both paper and glass and as tissues as well. Many were tinted, and the book includes several exceptional examples of the still intense colored images. While in a few cases the tinting distracts from the detail and/or stereo quality of the image,



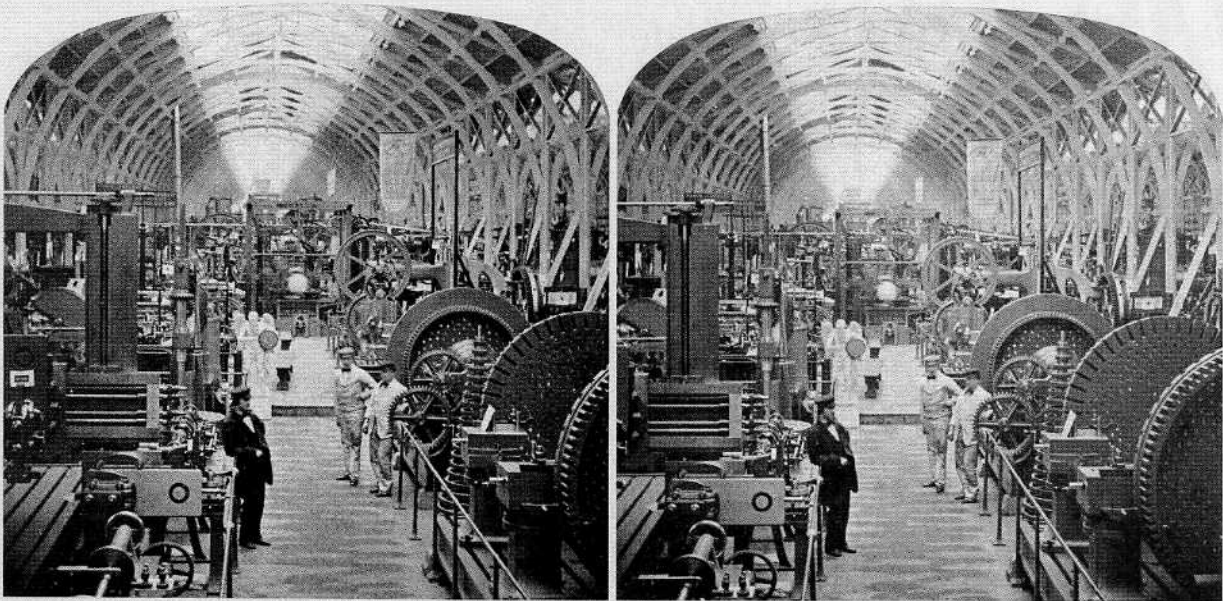
most are well done and a couple approach the quality of the tinting on some G.W. Wilson views, although with more saturated colors befitting the ostentatious nature of the subject.

As you stroll to each new scene in the exhibition, the view is explained by text (most from the *Illustrated London News*) and a flat blow-up of detail from the image. In their language and mid-Victorian British outlook, these reports help maintain the impression of a visit to 1862. Below each block of original text, the author provides directions to the next scene, as: "Return to the Nave, turn right, continue to the Russian Court." (Complete floor plans for the exhibition are included in the introduction, as are the regulations and instructions for visitors.)

All illustrations are printed using stochastic (dotless) screening which survives magnification nearly as well as a photographic print.

3D EXPO 1862 - A Magic Journey To Victorian England

by Michael Tongue, Discovery Books
2006. Hardback, 9.75" x 6.75" with
viewer incorporated in cover, 112 pages,
49 views plus English text and detail
enlargements. For ordering information,
contact AngloMedia AB, Alliansvägen 23,
SE-187 63 Täby, SWEDEN,
www.3dexpo1862.com/eng/index.html
info@anglomedia.se



With binding done in Europe, the integrated lenses are held in place within two layers of heavy board instead of a paper overlay, providing a better look and probably improved durability.

The author's nearly four year search for views of the exhibition

London Stereoscopic Company No. 147, "Machinery. Western Annexe." Seen from a viewing platform on Maudslay's engine, the hardware of the Industrial Revolution drew huge crowds on the exhibition's "shilling days". The words of the Illustrated London News in the text for this view include: "The working classes are thoroughly at home in this department; they feel that they have had a hand in producing it, and that they get their bread by or through it."

involved extensive international travel and contacts. The effort and

dedication clearly paid off, and whether your interest is in the stereography or the exhibition, time may indeed seem distorted once you come under the gravitational influence of this book/viewer's in-depth tour into the past.

(An article comprised of excerpts from the book will appear in an upcoming issue of Stereo World.)

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SI Kids Gets In Your Face

NSA member David Klutho has scored another 3-D win with a special "In Your Face 3D" section in the December, 2006 issue of *Sports Illustrated Kids* magazine. Eight pages of his dramatic sports action pictures—from football to Indy racing to track and field are included, along with a cartoon page and a page of nine collectible 3-D sports cards.

