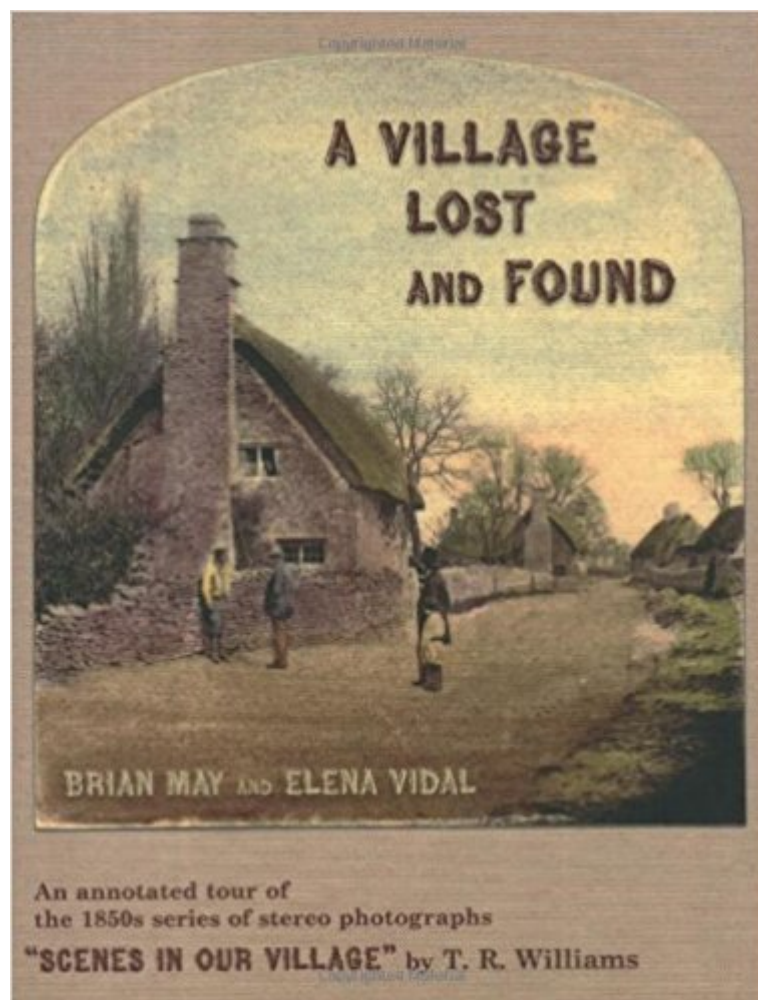




The book was found

A Village Lost And Found: An Annotated Tour Of The 1850s Series Of Stereo Photographs "Scenes In Our Village" By T. R. Williams



Synopsis

Based on 30 years of research, Brian May's painstaking excavation of exquisite stereo photographs from the dawn of photography transports readers to the lost world of an Oxfordshire village of the 1850s. At the book's heart is a reproduction of T. R. Williams' 1856 series of stereo photographs, "Scenes in Our Village." Using the viewer supplied with this book, the reader can become absorbed in a village idyll of the early Victorian era: the subjects seem to be on the point of suddenly bursting back into life and continuing with their daily rounds. The book is also something of a detective story, as the village itself was only identified in 2003 as Hinton Waldrist in Oxfordshire, and the authors' research constantly reveals further clues about the society of those distant times, historic photographic techniques, and the life of the enigmatic Williams himself, who appears, Hitchcock-like, from time to time in his own photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"T. R. Williams seems to have created 'Our Village' as a labor of love, recording the scenes of his childhood summers and documenting a place and way of life that was already vanishing through the effects of the industrial revolution. His extraordinary dedication to the project and his quest for perfection in stereographic imagery are both honored and mirrored in the years of research, photographic explorations and thoughtful presentation that have made possible this book, *A Village Lost and Found* — clearly another labor of love." — John Dennis, *Stereo World* "The awesome thoroughness of this book is worthy of a PhD thesis...a triumph of scholarship and credit

to all concerned." --The Royal Photographic Society "It's like magic and makes me feel like a child again." --Observer

Brian May, CBE, PhD, FRAS is a founding member of Queen, a world-renowned guitarist, songwriter, producer and performer. Brian postponed a career in astronomy when Queen's popularity first exploded, but after an incendiary 30 years as a rock musician, returned to astrophysics in 2006, when he completed his PhD and coauthored his first book, *Bang! The Complete History of the Universe*, with Patrick Moore and Chris Lintott. Stereoscopy has been a life-long passion, and his second book, *A Village Lost and Found*, written with Elena Vidal, introduced the genius of Victorian stereo photographer T. R. Williams to a global audience. Elena Vidal is an experienced conservator and photo historian. She has worked as a conservator of paintings in Florence, Spain and the UK. She graduated with an MA in Photographic Conservation at the Camberwell School of Arts, and has subsequently specialized in the history of stereoscopic photography.

I must say this is a superb book. Look to the video review by Christoph64 for an overview of what this book is all about. This is a volume for those interested in photography, specifically stereoscopic photography, as well as for those interested and studying how people lived in 19th century Britain - with a focus on common village folk. The viewer which comes with the boxed book works well, though not as well as with my early 20th century viewer. I suggest, for those scenes which have special appeal and for personal use only, to have a print shop copy those particular scenes on card stock, and then cut them to size so they fit in an old-fashioned viewer. You will be amazed at what you will immediately see and how the scene pops to life. I want to thank Brian May and Elena Vidal for working on and producing such a fine volume so that many around the world can enjoy these examples of life in Victorian Britain. It truly looks to be a labor of love. It strikes me that this book would be a good introduction for children, as well as adults, to learn about life in another place and time. Incidentally, many of the views show hand-colored examples of this early photography. This is an example of how publishers can still produce books of a fine quality at what I think is a reasonable price.

This always sits on my coffee table. I really love this book. Simpler times. This is a great escape. At first my viewers wouldn't stay put (being new) but I put a rubber band around them to hold them together at first then removed it after a few days. The viewer stays put now and is very clear. No

complaints. I would buy this again.

Another excellent, comprehensive look at not only the photographic and technical aspects of the stereoviews, but a very human voice for the history. Brian May and company do the detective work! If you love history - and I mean the real, everyday lives of people at ground level - you need this book. This deluxe set came in a sturdy slipcover, and included Brian May's own patent pending Owl Stereoscopic viewer - a clever folding stereoscope that works with the book, vintage stereoview cards, and even a smartphone (with an adapter). This set is great for veteran stereoscopic fans, and as an introductory kit for the novice. Five Stars and Three Cheers for the London Stereoscopic Company!

purchased this book to learn about stereo cards and stereo photography. Comes with a very nice viewer that I have been able to use to view my own stereo digital cards off of my iPad Mini. The book is interesting for its historical images and stories but also teaches you about stereo photo in the process of enjoying the books content. Nice slipcover for the book, slip cover for the viewer to protect it. It is a quality piece they produced and it is packaged very nicely.

I am fascinated by stereoscopic photography and by the work of Dr. Brian May. Not only does he present beautiful photos from T. R. Williams in the 1850's but he provides excellent descriptions of each photograph. Along with Elena Vidal, a photo historian, this is a wonderful glimpse of A Village Lost and Found through stereoscopy.

I ordered this book for several reasons, but mostly because I read all about the search for this "lost" village a while ago on Brian May's website. Brian May (yes, the guitarist from Queen) had seen the series of stereophotographs by T.R. Williams, which were taken in the 1850's, but were only titled, "Scenes from Our Village". After searching and researching, he and his co-author Elena Vidal not only located the village, but also some of the structures from the images that are still standing today. Stereo images, if you are not familiar, are a pair of images of the same subject, taken at slightly different angles so that when viewed together, they create a 3-D effect similar to what we enjoy in computer-generated movies like Avatar and Toy Story 3. The same effect is also used in the 3-D pictures that you stare at until a hidden image appears within it. But these photos were taken over 100 years ago using glass plates in tripod cameras, and were originally viewed as photo pairs mounted on a card, using a hand-held viewer that was the forerunner of our View-Masters of

the 1960's. This book is a compilation of the stereo image pairs from the series "Scenes from Our Village", along with a brief history and explanation of each image - who is in it, where it was taken, comments on the imaging techniques. Most fascinating is the amount of skill required to take duplicate still photos of people and children and nature using the methods of the day which required the subjects to remain in the same position for 5-10 minutes while the exposures were made. A stereo viewer that was included with the book allows easy viewing of stereo pairs as 3-D images, giving incredible depth and life to photos from 150 years ago when photography was in its infancy. The book also includes a brief history of the photographer, an in-depth description of the techniques and equipment used to create these 3-D image pairs, and a glossary of the photographic and imaging terms to help those unfamiliar with the topics and wonderful insights into the life and times in this village that was lost and found. Stereo images of the existing structures, sometimes from the same viewpoint as in the original photos, are also included. If you have any interest in photography, or of 3-D effects, or of the history of rural village life in the 1850's, this book is highly recommended. I had the great pleasure of attending a book signing event where these authors discussed all that went into the making of this book, and more tidbits of information about the images, which made looking through the book again even more enjoyable.

This is a lovely time travel picture book for anyone wishing to experience the charm and calm of English yesteryear. Viewing "A Village Lost and Found" grants permission for one to slow down and appreciate the beauty of the present time, also. Brian May's collection of photographs illuminates his multi-dimensional talent, and his appreciation for the talent of those who've come before. This book can offer encouragement to others who believe they have more to offer than merely that for which they are currently known.

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