

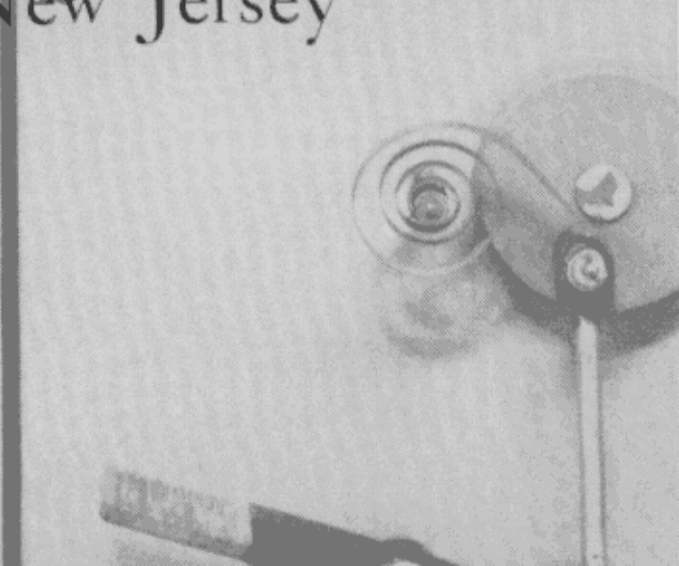
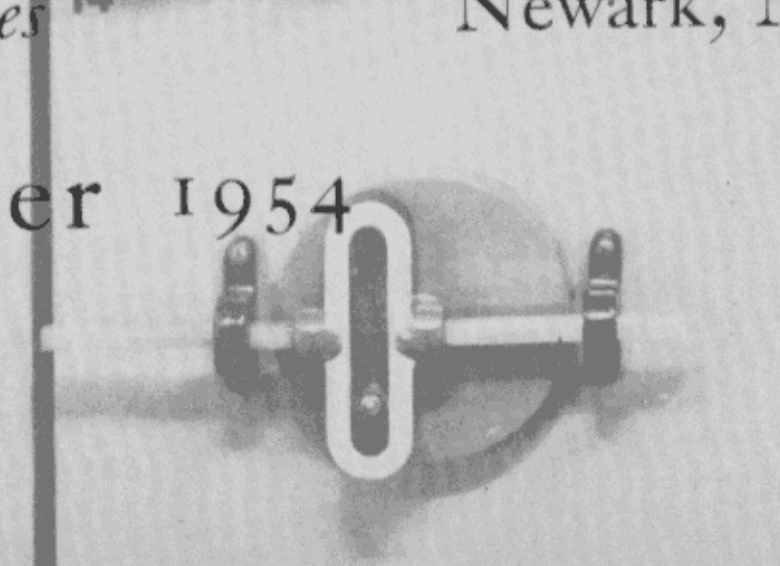
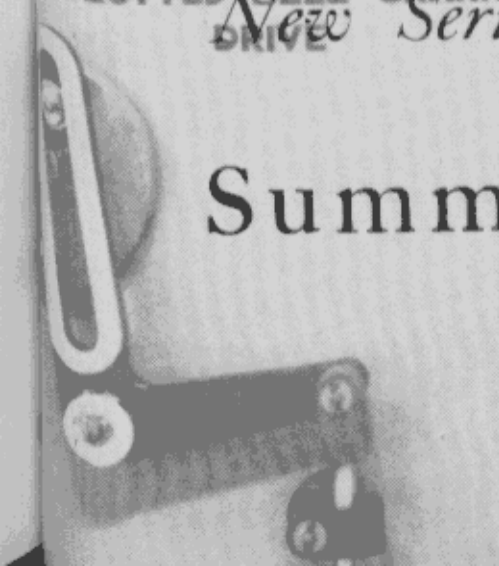
# THE MUSEUM

13 SLOTTED BELL CRANK DRIVE  
*New Series*

14 SLOTTED YOKE DRIVE

15 "OFF-CENTER-STOP" DRIVE  
Newark, New Jersey

Summer 1954



# THE MUSEUM

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## NOTE

John Cotton Dana's concept that a museum "should reflect our industries, be stimulating and helpful to our workers; promote an interest in the products of our shops," and his desire "to make adult Americans more pleased and proud of the mechanical achievements of their countrymen; and to arouse in the young an interest to do all kinds of things from the driving of a nail with a hammer to the construction of a motor car," lead him in 1926 to inquire about an exhibition of mechanical models on display in a New York department store. This exhibition, the life work of a New Jersey inventor, Mr. William M. Clark, consisted of panels on which were mounted one hundred-sixty working models, showing the fundamentals of mechanical movement, beginning with the first principles and covering the development, both practical and experimental, in a more or less natural sequence. What Mr. Clark had succeeded in doing was to condense into simple, compact, and easily operated models all the movements or combinations of movements used in mechanics. The first set he designed and constructed went to the New York Museum of Science and Industry, known at that time, in 1929, as The Museum of Peaceful Arts. This set now belongs to the Museum of Science, Boston. After Mr. Dana's death in 1929, Mr. Louis Bamberger ordered a second set of this "dictionary of mechanical movements" for the Newark Museum.

The models have been on exhibition continuously since 1930 with a few interruptions when they were lent to Mr. Clark for the Chicago World's Fairs of 1933 and 1934, and to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1937 for display during the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

The thousands of people who have viewed this exhibition in the past twenty-four years have found considerable enjoyment in studying the mechanical operations presented effectively in it. It gives us pleasure to bring to our members and friends the following history of the principles of mechanical movements prepared by Kenneth Gosner of our Science Department Staff.

KATHERINE COFFEY, *Director*

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# MECHANICAL MODELS

A COLLECTION OF THE NEWARK MUSEUM

By KENNETH L. GOSNER

For most of us, who are not trained engineers, the insides of a clock, a typewriter, or the mysteries hidden under the hood of a modern automobile present a picture of baffling complexity and even confusion. It is usually enough if the machine does what it is intended to, if its parts move according to the engineer's design. When this does not occur, when the machine fails, we are lost, frustrated, and usually annoyed. Then we anxiously call for the mechanic. Constantly we are confronted by the latest marvels of a highly technological era. If we are not familiar with the machines themselves we are at least familiar with their resulting product. Surprising then that an understanding of the principles of mechanical movements, which are so important to our civilization, has become more and more the province of engineers and mechanics alone.

The mechanical fittings of our culture result from the application of but a few principles, a few compared to the multitude of devices based on them. The inclined plane, lever, wedge, and pulley, together with the wheel and axle and the screw, are often called the six elements of mechanical movement--the six "simple machines." They provide the basis for mechanical invention. They are these the exclusive property of mankind

or the product of his imagination alone. Simple machines may be found in the animal kingdom and elsewhere in nature. To take a familiar example the mosquito. The mosquito flies and walks by manipulating the levers that make up her leg and wing attachments. The same mosquito, if she has the opportunity, makes effective use of a wedge when she punctures the skin in search of nourishment. Birds, which have been flying since Jurassic times or more than a hundred million years before man's labored efforts to get off the ground were successful, raise their wings by an arrangement of bone, muscle, and tendon which approximates the pulley in principle. When animals first climbed up out of the sea to conquer land habitats they very probably used the principle of the inclined plane.

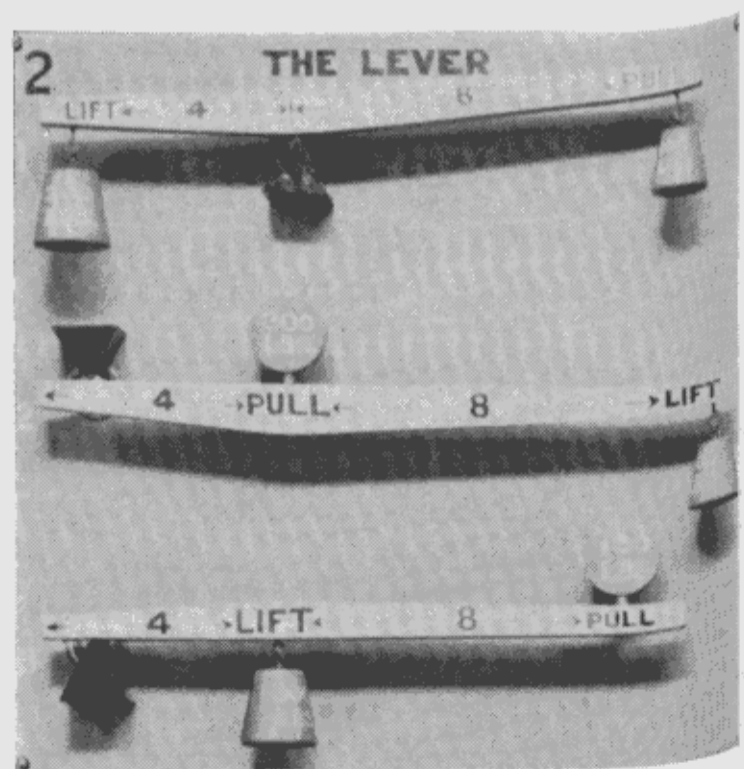
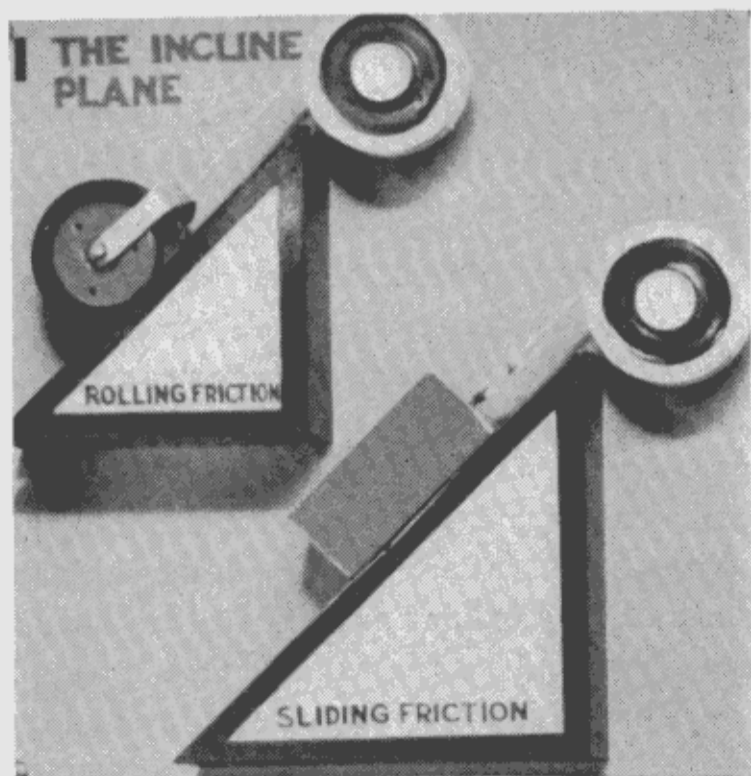
Elementary machines, as well as fundamental mechanical movements and such complex pieces of machinery as an automobile engine, are shown in an operating exhibit of Mechanical Models in the Museum. One hundred-sixty movements and inventions are shown, and the photographs illustrating this text are taken from the exhibition. Historically the exhibit may be said to cover the period from man's earliest use of tools other than his own hands to the present age of internal combustion engines, turbines, and steam locomotives.

Examples of the use of the inclined plane, lever, and wedge are found abundantly in nature, and these few simple machines were employed by early man in the fashioning of tools. The use of mechanical devices goes back far beyond the limits of recorded history. The inclined plane and the lever were perhaps the first mechanical elements put to work. The principle of the wedge, which is really a form of the inclined plane, came into use when early human hunters and fishermen sharpened sticks to make the first spears. Later the wedge formed the basis of the sharp cutting edges of stone knives and projectile points.

As long as man followed a meager existence gathering the roots, nuts, berries, and fruits that grew around him, or was satisfied to fill out this vegetable diet with game and fish, his technology remained a relatively simple one. Later he began to perfect the techniques of agriculture, growing his own crops of corn and rice and domesticating dogs, pigs, and horses. But man's progress in improving the tools with which he worked went slowly. The discovery of fire gave him a means of improving the qualities of some of the tools that he already had and of using previously untried raw materials in perfecting new implements. The use of metals began with the smelting of simple ores and the pounding into useful shapes of native metals. The inclined plane, lever, and wedge, unassisted by other mechanical

elements, continued to serve as the foundation of applied mechanics even into the period of ancient civilization. With simple mechanisms the Egyptian architects of 5000 years ago built the pyramids. During most of this long struggle, muscle power provided the force to accomplish human undertakings. Manpower alone raised tons of granite and limestone blocks into the fantastic pyramids of ancient Egypt, hundreds of thousands of men laboring for twenty years or more to accomplish this.

Just when and by whom the principle of the wheel, screw, and pulley was added to man's store of mechanical knowledge we do not know. It is possible that these advances took place during the Bronze Age. Although wheeled toys have been found among the artifacts of ancient Mexico, the Indian civilizations of the New World, like the builders of the early Egyptian dynasties, depended mainly on the first three of the six simple machines. The wheel may have evolved through the use of rollers made of rough logs employed to move blocks of stone. By cutting off thin sections of a log and connecting two of them with an axle, wheeled vehicles could have been brought into existence. Wheeled chariots were in use in Babylonia at least as early as 3000 B. C. The origin of the screw is just as obscure as that of the wheel. Mechanically, a screw is a cylinder with an inclined plane wound spirally around it; a triangular piece of paper



ound about a pencil illustrates the principle involved. However man hit on this device, olive presses using the screw were in operation several centuries before the beginning of the Christian era and the pulley had also been invented by that time.

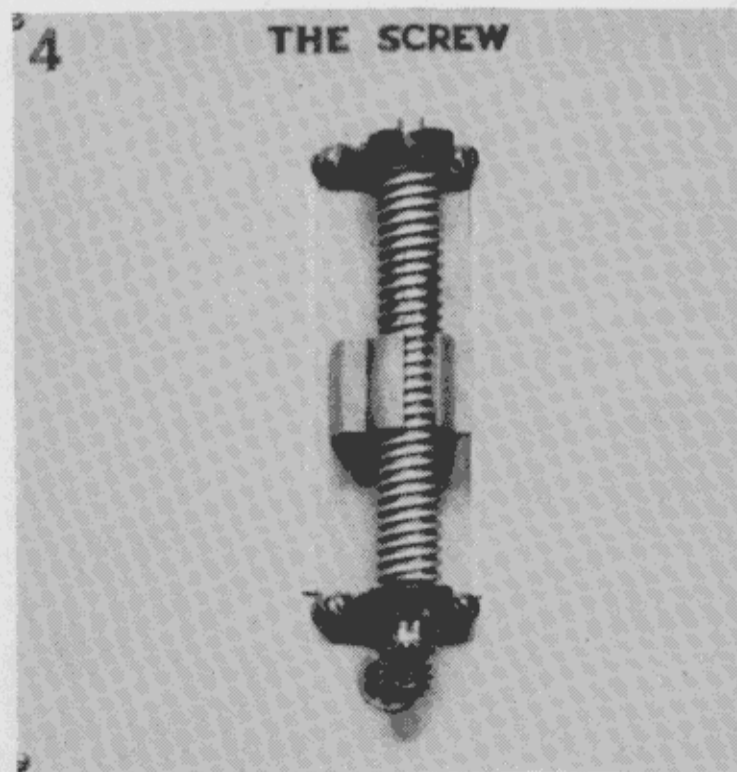
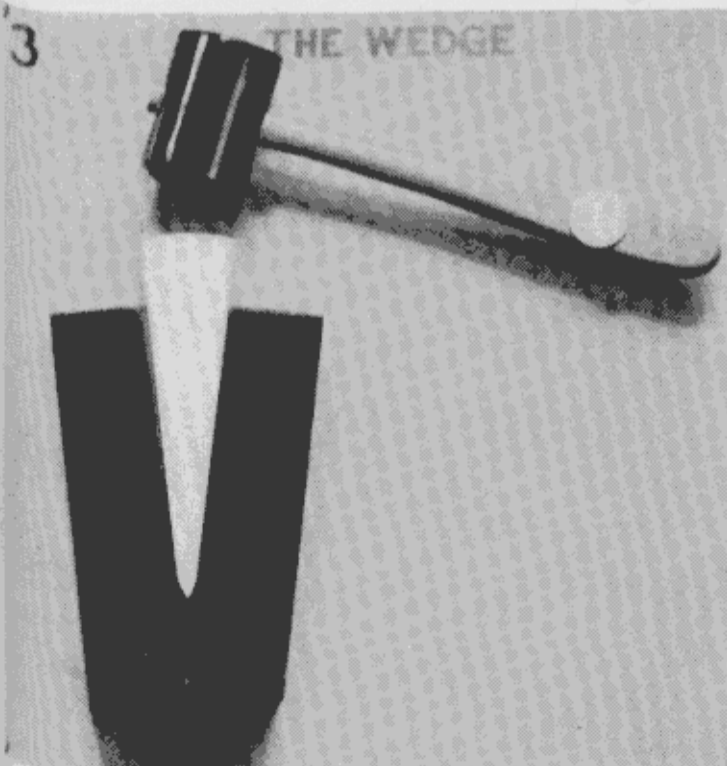
The simplest mechanisms provided the basis for human invention during the early period of recorded history. While camels, horses, and mules were broken to the task of carrying burdens in neolithic time, they were not used to provide the force to operate machinery. The talents of the engineer were mainly directed towards the construction of roads, bridges, public buildings, and the implements of warfare. Probably through lack of a necessity for more elaborate mechanisms, invention lagged. Machinery depending on the ingenuity and skill of men using established principles continued to be fairly simple in design. This condition remained in effect during the time of the civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

No serious attempt to accumulate knowledge of mechanical movements into an organized body of facts was made until the time of Archimedes of Syracuse (287-212 B. C.) who is credited with founding a science of mechanics through his studies on levers. In Alexandria, during Hellenistic times, a mathematician and mechanic named Heron put down all that was known to him of mechanical matters in a work called "Book on

the Raising of Weights." But the emphasis in Greek civilization was not on technology, and an interest in mechanics was considered somewhat beneath the dignity of the philosopher and thinker.

Thus, as a science, mechanics languished for a very long time. With the beginning of the Renaissance, the situation began to change. Western civilization, after a long period of comparative quiescence, had again picked up momentum. Larger populations and increased trade made new demands on the technology of nations. Into this setting came Leonardo da Vinci. While he is remembered for his accomplishments in art, he made important contributions to mechanics and invention as well. Many of da Vinci's sketches and ideas anticipated inventions hundreds of years in advance of their accomplishment. He also gave his attention to the study of mechanical movements and devices whose usefulness was not limited to any particular machine but which might find a place in various mechanisms suited to a variety of tasks. This attention to fundamentals, as preserved in da Vinci's notebooks and manuscripts, served as a source of ideas and inspiration for other inventors as the Renaissance spread from Italy to Germany and France.

Some of da Vinci's more ambitious schemes were never realized, partly because of a lack of



suitable sources of power to set his machines in motion. This search for newer and better "prime movers," or power sources, marks the history of man's technological progress and particularly his development of industry. As early as the fifth century A. D., the power in flowing rivers was put to work; windmills made their appearance five hundred years later. Da Vinci's invention of the turret windmill was, perhaps, the only fundamental improvement in the operation of prime movers until the development of the steam engine. His innovation permitted the top of the mill to be turned in order to take advantage of the wind from whatever quarter it might come.

The introduction of water supply systems for large cities, such as Toledo in Spain, as early as 1526, or just after the Spanish conquest of Mexico, sharpened the need for more efficient sources of power. Pumps were needed for this operation, and more efficient pumps were also in demand for the work of keeping deep mines clear of water. The pumps then used had not undergone much change since the time of the ancient Romans. Thus, necessity was truly "the mother of invention;" not only was there a need for better pumps but for better power sources to drive them. The improvement in pump design, notably in the invention of the vacuum pump, answered an immediate need and also laid the groundwork for the development of the steam engine.

The steam engine was a long time being born. Heron, writing way back at the beginning of the Christian era, described a steam engine called the *eolipile*; although this device remained little more than a scientific curiosity, it may properly be regarded as the ancestor of both the steam engine and the steam turbine. The names of a number of scientists, Galileo among them, are linked to studies on the vacuum and steam which provided a background in pure science for the invention which was to revolutionize technology. In 1663 the Earl of Worcester developed a workable steam engine, and within forty years steam engines were in use powering mine pumps. Seventy years later James Watt made the critical improvements in steam engines which provided man with a reliable, easily controlled source of motive power, and by the beginning of the nineteenth century, the "Age of Steam" had begun with steam locomotives, steam boats, and steam engines driving machinery in industry.

To continue the story of the development of the principal prime movers that powered the technological revolution which has taken place in the past fifty to one hundred years, it is necessary to mention the steam turbine. A primary advantage of the turbine is its direct development of a high speed motion admirably suited to the needs of electric generators and the power plants of sea-going ships. These applications came in the last decade of the nineteenth century, which also

