



STEAMPUNK LEGO®

GUY HIMBER



STEAMPUNK LEGO®

*The Illustrated Researches of
Various Fantastical Devices by Sir Herbert Jobson,
with Epistles to the Crown, Her Majesty Queen Victoria;*

BY GUY HIMBER



no starch
press

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First printing

Printed in China

18 17 16 15 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ISBN-10: 1-59327-528-5

ISBN-13: 978-1-59327-528-0

Publisher: William Pollock

Production Editor: Serena Yang

Jacket Design: Sylvain Amacher (<http://www.facebook.com/captainmogl/>)

Interior Design Concept: Chris Gould

Developmental Editor: Riley Hoffman

Copyeditor: Paula L. Fleming

Compositors: Ryan Byarlay, Laurel Chun, and Serena Yang

Proofreader: Alison Law

For information on distribution, translations, or bulk sales, please contact No Starch Press, Inc. directly:
No Starch Press, Inc.

245 8th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

phone: 415.863.9900; info@nostarch.com;

<http://www.nostarch.com/>

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Himber, Guy, 1965-

Steampunk LEGO : the illustrated researches of various fantastical devices by Sir Herbert Jobson, with epistles to the Crown, Her Majesty Queen Victoria / Guy Himber.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-59327-528-0 (hardback) -- ISBN 1-59327-528-5 ()

1. LEGO toys 2. Steampunk fiction. 3. Steampunk culture. I. Title.

TS2301.T7H55 2014

688.7'25--dc23

2014013785

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

*To the memory of Herb Jabson,
the original Steampunk*




ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I'd like to thank V.P. Himber for his support, enthusiasm, and love of the bricks.

Thanks also to Serena Yang and Riley Hoffman of No Starch Press for their infinite patience, understanding, and mad publishing skills; and to Bill Pollock for publishing this book and so many other great books about LEGO.


To the LEGO Steampunk community, especially Rod Gillies and Sylvain Amacher, and to all the other amazing LEGO AFOLs: it has been my pleasure to meet you all and share in your contagious passion for the infinite possibilities of little plastic bricks. This book couldn't have happened without the generosity of your talents and wit.





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PLANIGLOBII TERRESTRIS

Mappa Vniversalis.

Utrumq; Hemisphaerium Orientis et Occidentale representans
Ex IV mappis generalibus Huiusmodi composita et adiectis
ceteris hemisphaeris designata a G. M. Lovizio
Excudentibus Romanianis Aedribus
A. MDCCXXXVII

Fig. I. dicitur Hemisphaerium polare arcticum. Fig. II. Hemisphaerium polare antarcticum. Fig. III. Hemisphaerium Sphaera obliqua pro horizonte Norimberg. Fig. IV. eius oppositum inferius cum Antipodibus Norimbergensibus.





MAPPE MONDE
qui represente les deux Hemispheres. sçavoir
celui de l'Orient et celui de l'Occident, tirée des
quatre Cartes generales de feu M. le Professeur Halius
desseignée par M. G. A. Loric et publiée par les Heritiers de
Homann 1746

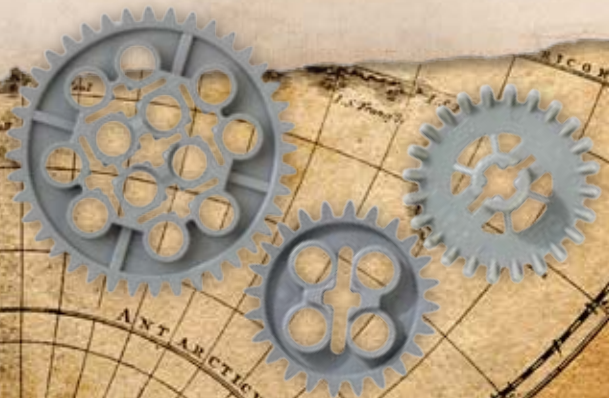
WHAT IS STEAMPUNK?

Steampunk is a creative genre that imagines an alternate history of 19th-century technology. Its devotees employ a fanciful blend of fantasy, science fiction, and historical adventure to tell their stories. Electricity has just started to enter the realm of the common inventor, but steam-powered machines are the tools of the day. Clockwork gears and mechanisms are often exposed for ease of service and ease of appreciation. Daring inventors float through the skies and roam the countryside in their fantastic contraptions.

The artists, authors, and filmmakers who work in the Steampunk genre value independence, creativity, and whimsy—which makes LEGO a perfect embodiment of the Steampunk philosophy. LEGO builders don't want mass-produced, generic things but tools from which we can build our own unique ideas and creations.

Within these well-worn pages you will find an extensive collection of the world's greatest Steampunk builders and the wonders they have created. Page after page of mechanical marvels and scientific mysteries await you, intrepid reader! Top up the oil in your lamp, put on your favorite goggles and top hat, and let's explore!

Yours in Steampunkery,
Guy Himer
V&A Steamworks





SIR HERBERT JOBSON

Sir Herbert Jobson is a trusted and highly regarded member of Queen Victoria's royal entourage. The Queen has seen fit to honour him with knighthood in the Most Distinguished Order of Fanciful Devices and appoint him to the post of Queen's Chronicler of Technology. In this capacity, he ventures around the world and reports on exciting developments in the Sciences and their potential for civilian and military applications. His military know-how and seasoned diplomatic *savoir faire* serve him well as he compiles this "Domesday Book" of scientific wonders.

LT. PENFOLD

With his typewriter ever at the ready, Lieutenant V.P. Penfold is the loyal and tenacious aide-de-camp of Sir Herbert. Commissioned from the Queen's Guard after his exemplary bookkeeping skills helped turn the tide of the Crimean War, Lt. Penfold serves faithfully as both scribe and dogsbody, chronicling Sir Herbert's sometimes questionable commentary and offering occasional tidbits of advice and tempered guidance. Possessed of a nimble mind and a voracious appetite for knowledge, he is renowned for his exceptional wombat stew.



If you come into possession of this journal, it means that I have fallen at the hands of a dastardly plot. Whatever the circumstance, you are commanded to pry this book from my cold, dead fingers and take it posthaste to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Rest assured that you shall be compensated handsomely for this service.

Sir Herbert Jobson





21. March

Aboard the Edison's Bane—admiring the copper wires

Your Majesty,

The kingdom's railway system stretches outward like a vast network of veins and arteries, and London is the thundering brave-heart that pumps commerce inward and outward, serving the needs of England and the Commonwealth.

One day I hope Your Majesty might join me for a jolly good day of "trainspotting," a newly invented sport, wherein a group of curious observers might settle down by the rail yards and enjoy the splendour of the ever-changing "parade of locomotives."

Steam-powered freight engines pull an endless stream of railroad cars, coaches, and wagons of every imaginable size, colour, and purpose.

A small sampling of these grand machines follows.

Yours in service,

Sir Herbert





**ROLLING
STOCK**

POST CARD

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*“The introduction of so powerful
an agent as steam to a carriage on
wheels will make a great change
in the situation of man.”*
—Thomas Jefferson, 1802

MODEL 7244 BY TONY SAVA



This groundbreaking design comes from Captain Sava, the Aggie of Yorktown. Working closely with his young engineering protégé, Colburn, Captain Sava created this grand superpowered steam locomotive as the first in a proposed series of what he calls "Hudson-class" engines. I think we have an early favourite for next year's transcontinental race!

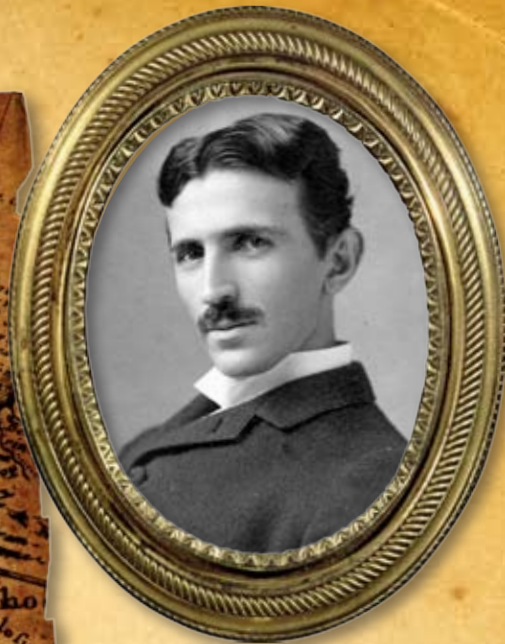


POST CARD

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A philosophical battle is being waged for the future of steam-powered electrical engines. This prototype locomotive is a first step in an effort to convert steam power into alternating electrical current to achieve a more effective and efficient use of energy. AC is the future!



EDISON'S BANE

BY V&A STEAMWORKS



CORNWALL CANNONBALL

BY TED ANDES



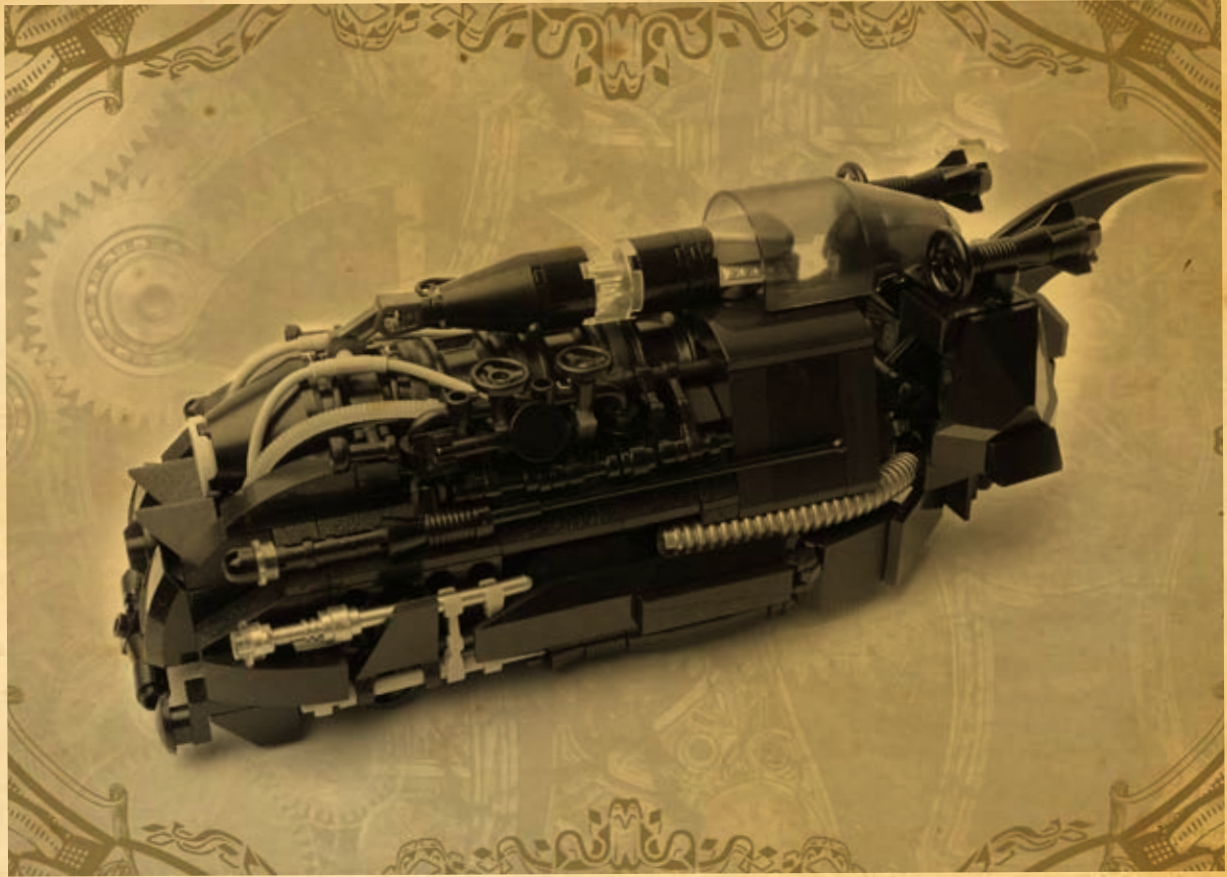
The Cannonball is a small, speedy, and utilitarian locomotive designed by the Cornwall Ironworks as a courier transport. It got the nickname “cannonball” because it is designed to explode upon impact with enemy railships (or anything else, unfortunately). This is also why the pilot is seated to the side—to more easily eject just prior to an imminent collision.

It is no surprise that they are now quite popular with the very best delivery services!

Lt. Penfold



BARON VON BATTEN'S TRAIN BY LAZLO KISSIMON



Legends abound about the mad millionaire Baron Von Batten, who claims to have travelled from the future and somehow become trapped in our own time. If true, this lunacy may explain his peculiar obsession with bats.

This engine was crafted by a few who believe the time traveller's story and have a fondness for madmen's money. In the hands of this self-appointed vigilante of the rails, this high-pressure roller is ready to confront any dark forces at play upon our nation's railways.

CLOCKWERK EXPRESS

BY FELIX HERZBERG

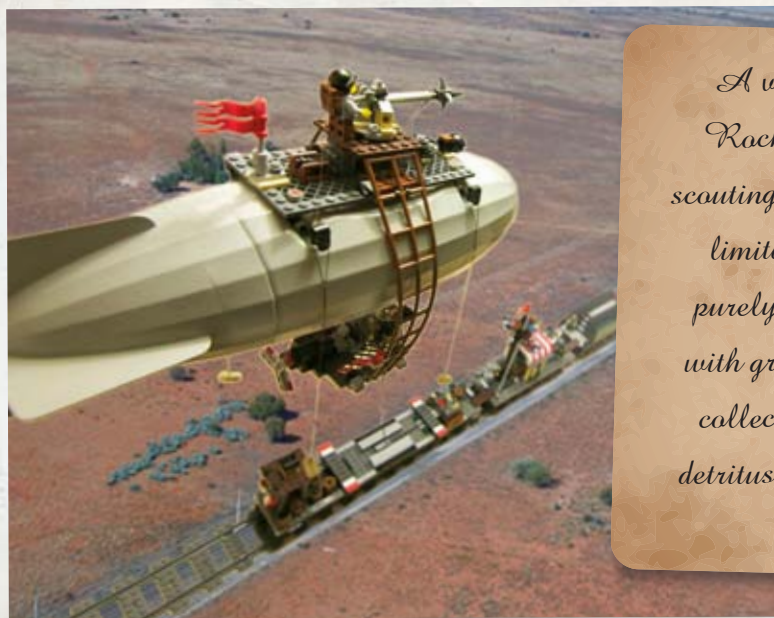


Your Majesty's current favour for rail travel has helped keep your Royal Engineers in constant pursuit of faster and safer steam engines. The enthusiastic boom for more efficient trains has resulted in this splendid engine. It is equipped with two tenders, one for coal and one for water, and a mighty quadruplex drive powers four Mountain Hammer XL motors. Your subjects have grown to love travel by these splendid excursion trains as they roll along the tracks to popular destinations, such as temperance gatherings and afternoon tea ceremonies.

Fig. III

CATCHING ROCKS

BY FELIX HERZBERG



A vessel for true explorers, Catching Rocks boasts an onboard dirigible for scouting beyond the train's most lamentable limitation: the track. Initially designed as a purely exploratory vessel, it was later outfitted with grand seine nets and put into service to help collect the various small particles of Cavorite detritus that have recently collected over the skies in the north end of Britain.





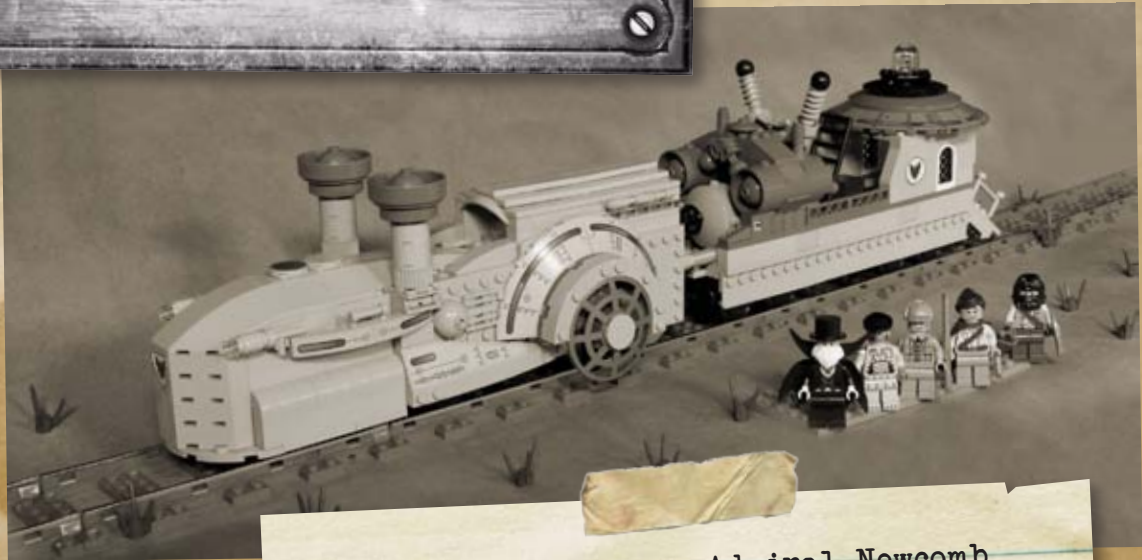
DIVING BELLES
BY DREW ELLIS

These underwater adventures are as marvelous as their conveyance. When they're not chugging down the transatlantic railways finding treasure, hunting a bounty, or saving a gentleman in distress, they can most often be found relaxing in the panoramawagon that's towed behind this distinguished scarlet engine.



NEWCOMB'S FOLLY

BY TED ANDES

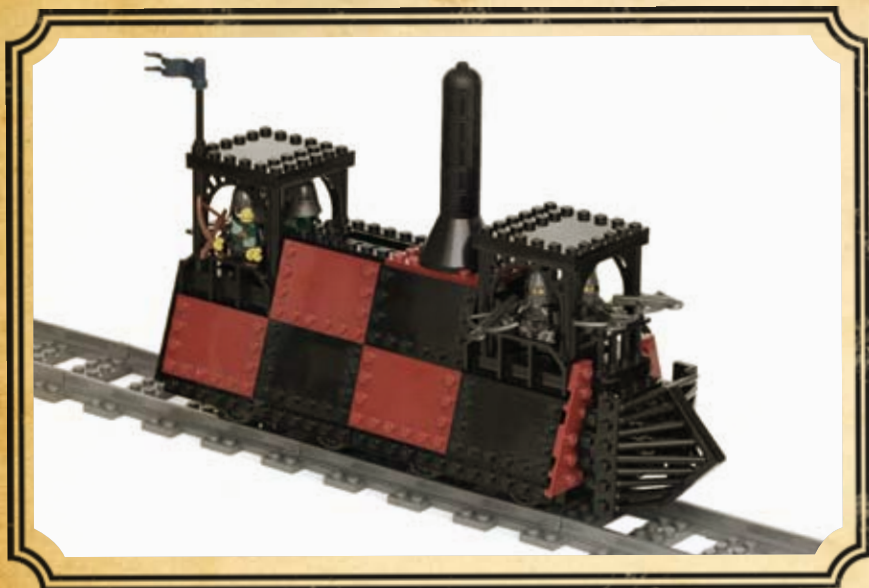


In this image, we see Admiral Newcomb pictured along with his "Quorum of Legendary Oddfellows" (from left): Oscar the Automaton, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Annie Oakley, and "Stinky Pete."

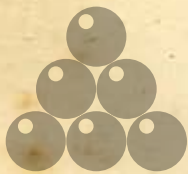
Lt. Penfold

Admiral Simon Newcomb's Amphibious Dynamotive Exploratorium, more commonly known as "Newcomb's Folly," was invented when Newcomb determined to create an amphibious locomotive transport for his astronomical and electro-physical expeditions—this despite everyone saying that it was a fool's errand. The true folly was in the original model's inability to handle the curves on many railways. As a result, Newcomb had to make a concession and separate the hull into two sections, then reconnect them prior to a water launch. Due to the inevitable leakage at the joint, the Folly's amphibious ability was generally limited to short river and lake crossings.

RAILCASTLE DEFENDER ENGINE BY PASCAL SCHMIDT



Near the white cliffs of Dover, a "fleet" of scurvy "pirates" ride the Queen's rails in search of treasure and fortune. To combat these miscreants, German mercenaries have been commissioned to patrol the area in the heavily armoured Railcastle Defender Engine. Thick steel plating allows the Railcastle Defender Engine to roll into the heaviest of artillery fire and ward off even the most aggressive assaults.



MARK IV SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY BY PASCAL SCHMIDT



The Mark IV Self-Propelled Artillery often accompanies the Railcastle.

Lt. Penfold

PIRATE RAIL

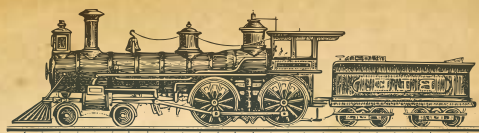
BY PASCAL SCHMIDT



The dread pirate fleet is
easier to capture on film
than in the flesh.

Lt. Penfold





URBAN STEAM MONORAIL

BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY

SWISS



The Corps of Royal Engineers is hotly debating the future of public rail transport — will it lie in the space above our heads or beneath our feet? While some argue the value of drilling giant holes in the ground and filling them with a cold and dark underground railway, more sunny-minded thinkers envision a world of fresh air, with luxurious cars gliding high above the cobblestone streets.



Fear of Giant Moles?

Lt. Penfold

BEAU DONNAN'S

JÖRMUNGANDR CLASS DOUBLE-BOILER LOCOMOTIVE



POSTAGE DUE *50*



This twin-boiler steam engine with a powered tender car is typically used to haul freight. In times of battle, however, it can be used to transport troops and cargo to the front lines and can also be plated in armour and used as an improvised railship.

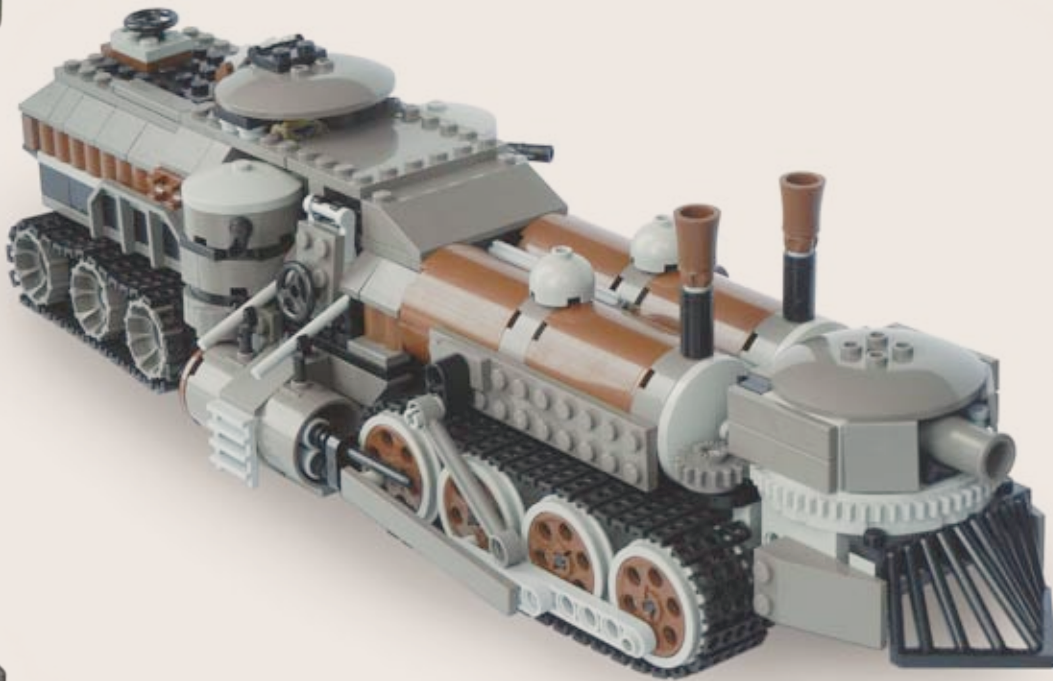
LIGHT STEAM LANDSHIP BY BEAU DONNAN

POSTALE

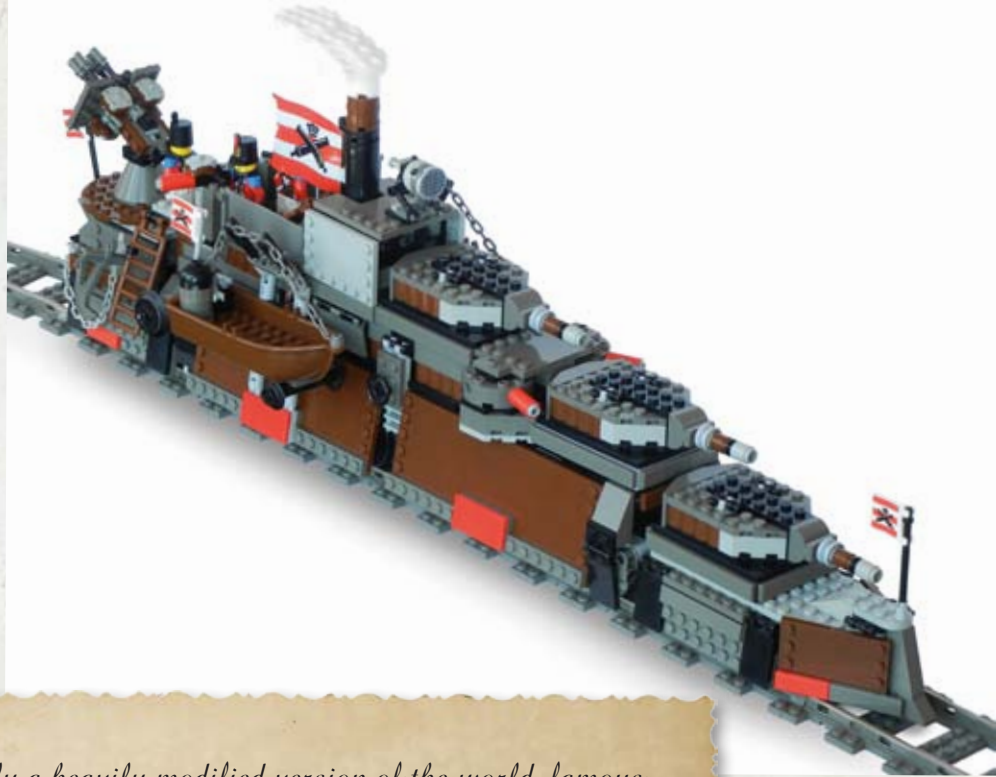
PARIS
10
4-XI

TUNIS

The Light Steam Landship is capable of speeds unheard-of for its size, thanks to its twin boilers, and formidable firepower in the form of a heavy cannon and two light turret guns. Unlike conventional tracked vehicles, this agile landship is able to maintain a high top speed even while turning, due to its innovative “bogie tracks” that swivel when changing direction.



“ARMADA-CLASS” HEAVY STEAM RAILSHIP BY BEAU DONNAN



Essentially a heavily modified version of the world-famous Dreadnought design, the Armada Class boasts many clever improvements, such as two compressed air-powered lifeboats that can deploy to adjacent tracks on either side of the ship. The Armada Class also features two naval anchors, which can be dropped to act as an emergency braking measure. In total, the Armada is armed with three medium cannon turrets, four automatic rifles, and a quadruple-barrelled anti-aircraft turret.



“SHUNTER-CLASS” LIGHT STEAM RAILTUG BY BEAU DONNAN



This rail yard shunter uses a large and powerful military-grade boiler to power its two massive pistons, which must be mounted horizontally and connected to the drive wheels via beams due to the compact chassis. These small yet strong railtugs are also commonly used as “slave engines” to augment the pulling power of freight locomotives.

**“IRONCLAD-CLASS” LIGHT DOUBLE-GAUGE STEAM RAILSHIP
BY BEAU DONNAN**



The Ironclad Class is armed with two forward-mounted medium cannon turrets, one heavy howitzer turret, two rear-mounted quadruple-barrelled anti-aircraft cannon turrets, and two automatic rifle mounts on the platforms. This gigantic railship moves on two separate tracks so as to support its hulking mass and to create a low centre of gravity to balance the recoil of its powerful cannon.

Developed in the American colonies and adapted from the mechanized prairie schooners that carried settlers across the vast western frontier, the Light Steam Transport Vehicle is highly versatile and exceptionally reliable. This lightweight vehicle sports wide treads to navigate sand, swamps, and other inhospitable terrain. The crew consists of a driver, a stoker, and up to five passengers.



**LIGHT STEAM TRANSPORT VEHICLE
BY BEAU DONNAN**

**FAR EASTERN LIGHT STEAM TANK
BY BEAU DONNAN**



This vibrantly painted vehicle forms the backbone of many Far Eastern armoured companies. Its strong boiler propels it at great speeds, making it an agile unit on the battlefield that can easily outmanoeuvre its opponents and catch the enemy in a vulnerable position. It is armed with a light cannon and equipped with large treads to traverse difficult terrain.

BEAU DONNAN'S

"TITAN-CLASS" DOUBLE-BOILER LOCOMOTIVE



The Titan's boilers are twice as large as those of its little brother, the Jörmungandr, and are mounted in an over-under configuration. Designed for wartime usage near the front lines, the Titan boasts special mounts above the valve gears for armour plating to protect the vulnerable machinery.

10. April

Eaton Cottage Hospital, Ward 8—having wounds tended to

Your Majesty,

By sitting within a single great wheel, one is afforded all of the splendour of a traditional buggy without the troublesome bother of the other three wheels. The great outer ring is usually driven by a series of smaller wheels, and a steam-powered motor can be installed to propel these fanciful roadsters forward.

These one-wheeled, single-track vehicles control both speed and direction with the same apparatus, thus eliminating the need for extraneous steering linkages and cumbersome safety features such as the ability to view oncoming hazards. I should note that reliable principles such as foot-dragging and leaning are proven techniques to which no amount of technology will ever be proven superior.

The ~~wheels~~ wheel of Progress never stops its deliberate spin...

Yours in service,

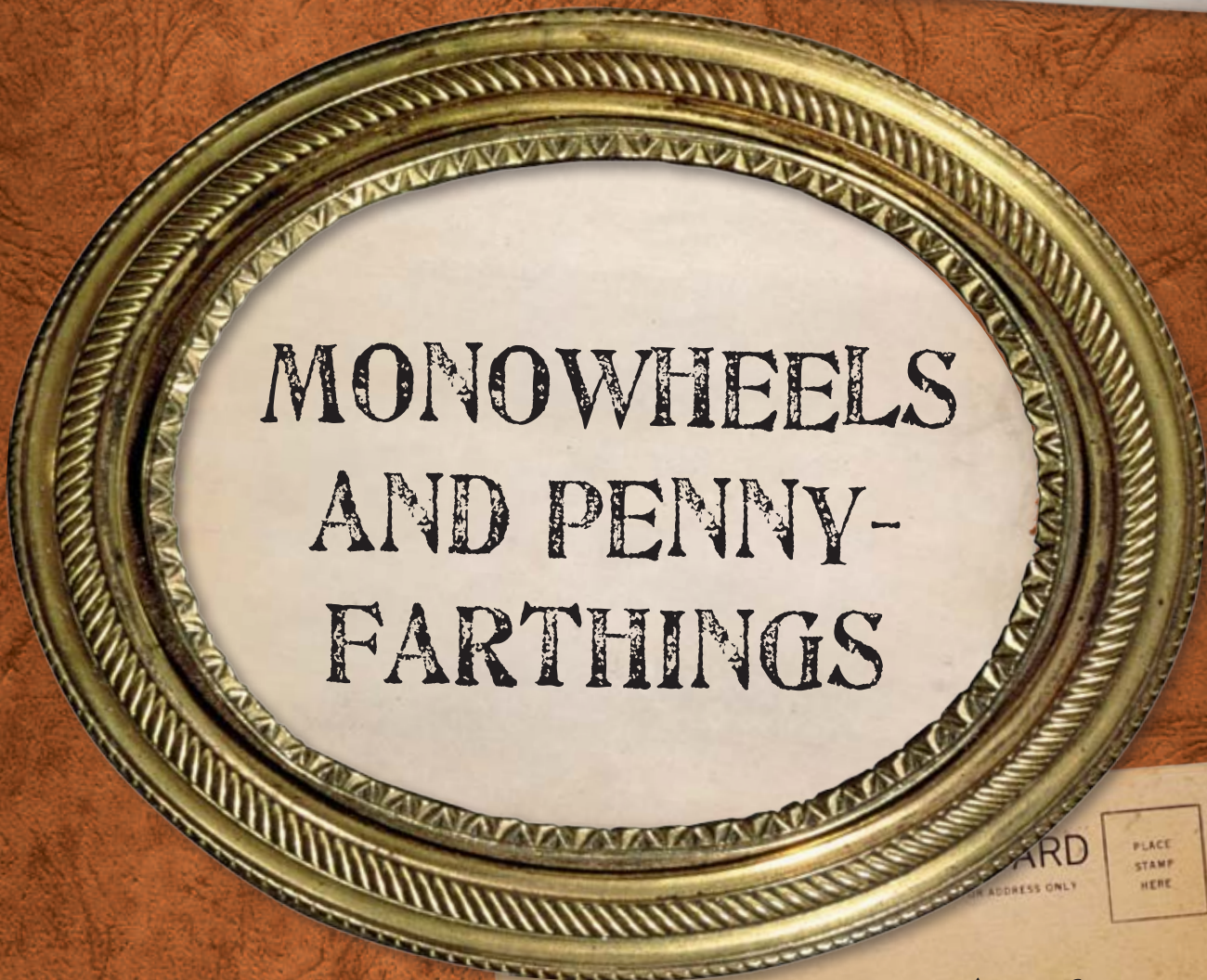
Sir Herbert

P. S. I have also included noteworthy accomplishments within the field of bicyclery, which has thus far proven to be a 100 percent improvement upon unicyclery.



*"Get a bicycle. You will
not regret it if you live."*

*—Mark Twain,
"Taming the Bicycle"*



**MONOWHEELS
AND PENNY-
FARTHING**

*"When I see an adult on a
bicycle, I do not despair for
the future of the human race."
—H. G. Wells*

WARD

ADDRESS ONLY

PLACE
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HERE

PENNY-FARTHING

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

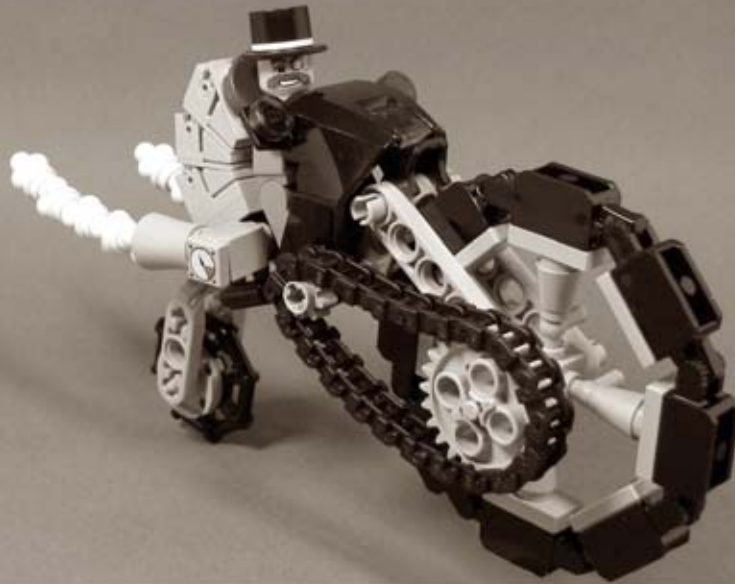


Before contributing noteworthy developments to the design of horse-drawn monowheels and other “doughnut” craft, the wizards at V&A Steamworks mastered the art of the classic Penny-Farthing. It is recommended that riders place their feet over the handlebars when going downhill at high speeds to allay somewhat the chances of lethal injury.

Here we see a member of the League of British Wheelmen riding a Penny-Farthing.

Lt. Penfold

THE VELOCICHOPPER BY KARF OOHLU



*Hailing from Down Under,
the Velocichopper is highly
favoured by adventurers who
travel the open roads of that
fair country.*

AMERICAN ZEPHYR

BY ROD GILLIES



The famous "American Zephyr" is the most popular model in the 2MC range of Davis & Harleyson mechanized bicycles. The large front wheel design allows for high speeds and daring deeds. Though this is verily a difficult and dangerous machine to operate, riders scoff at the risk of "taking a header." The newly rubberized wheel system eases the Zephyr over ruts and furrows and takes the sting out of cobblestone roadways.





DOCTOR HIGHTOWER'S PERSONAL ENGINE BY ROD GILLIES



Available from
selected shops
for self-assembly
at home.

Noted as one of the most luxurious and gentlemanly monowheel vehicles, the D.H.P.E. features elegant craftsmanship and the first-ever reclining chair. Burlled hardwoods and durable leather upholstery more than make up for a certain absence of visibility.



R.A.C.E.R.

BY DAN SABATH



I was made most welcome at Rusty Clank Manor, the home of Rear Admiral Daniel "Kiyose" Sabath, now retired. Admiral Sabath is an early innovator of mono ideals and Victorian sciences. He pioneered the very first forms of monowheel design by carefully ignoring such incidental problems as the wheel's inability to stop, obstruction of the view of oncoming hazards, and poor stability.

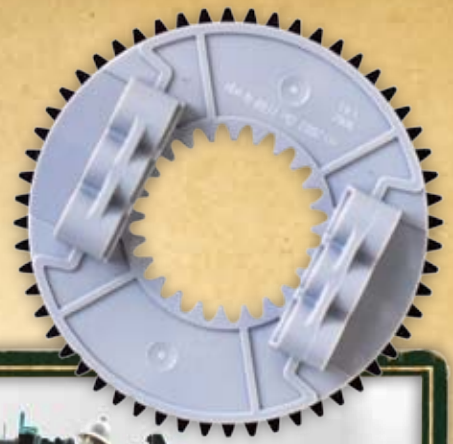


*The Admiral has always
been guided by his belief
that a true man ignores
such petty dangers!
I salute this great figure
whom so many have come
to know as the Father
of the Contemporary
Monowheel.*



STEAMCYCLE

BY ERIC CACIOPPO



A hybrid of designs by James Starley and Frenchman Eugene Meyer, this "Man Slicer" uses wire-spoked tension wheels to achieve revolutionary speeds and mustache handlebars to achieve impeccable style!



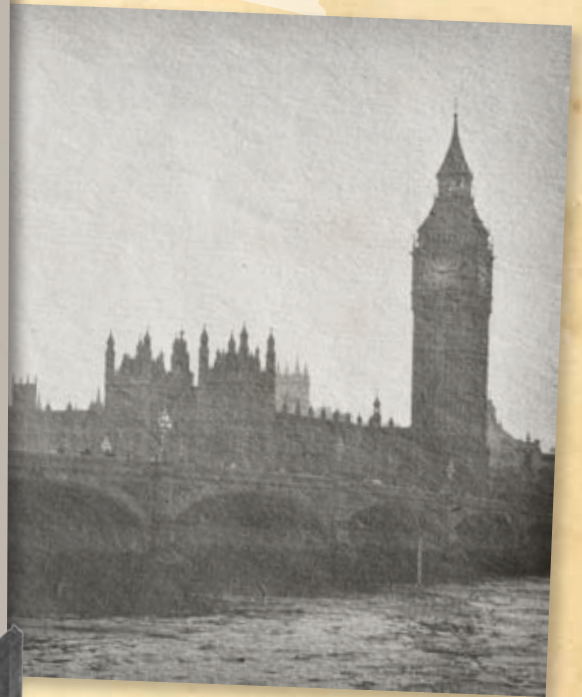
W8
BY LUIS BAIXINHO



The W8 Monowheel has become a popular vehicle for dreamily touring about the English countryside. The characteristic main rim is surrounded by a dependable caterpillar tread. This track is driven via a small high-capacity steam engine that allows for exceptional vehicle speeds. For years, illegal W8 races have been a rite of passage among the young nobility. Despite the dubious reputation conferred upon the W8 by these young rebels, its most common use remains as a reliable wheel for carefree jaunts along country lanes.

THE
ORIGINAL
PRODUCT

ROYAL
STEAMONOTRACK
BY PASCAL SCHMIDT



The Royal Steamonotracks are instantly recognizable due to their eye-catching Prussian blue colour scheme and flawlessly outfitted pilots. Only a select few of the Queen's guards survive the rigorous elite training program and are deemed worthy of captaining one of these distinctive wheels.

SWISS
MADE

DER GOLIATH

BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY

Dr. von Shrapnell's "Der Goliath" is the largest Monowheel ever created. This most impressive weapon features an armoured exterior equipped with two steamalite ray-cannons and space for as many as four crew members. Certainly this ringed brute is not the most nimble, yet its shortcomings in manoeuvrability are more than compensated for by its splendid appearance and capacity for high-speed travel.



I have been told
it can maintain
speeds in excess of
49 miles per hour!
Lt. Penfold

STEAMONOWHEEL

BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY



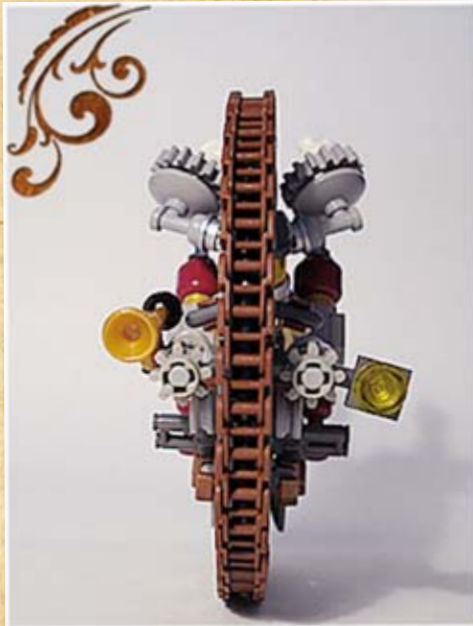
POST CARD
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS ONLY

domestic
one pence
foreign
three pence

Though currently Earth-bound, the Steamonowheel is being developed for use by British soldiers who must one day fight in the great Martian Wars of the future!

I believe this is what we would call "putting the cart before the horse!"

Lt. Penfold



THE FIVE POINTS WHEEL BY BRIAN RINKER



The eccentric Mr. Fredrick can often be seen taking a joyride through the middle of New York, past the infamous Five Points, to the great surprise of the pedestrians on the sidewalk. Noteworthy community leader Bill Cutting has nicknamed this jolly disc the "Wheel of Fortune."

NELSON YRIZARRY PRESENTS...



Upon donning a crash helmet, General Greeves is capable of unimaginable manoeuvres in this remarkable machine. Early design issues caused the driver to spin around the inside of the ring like a gerbil in a hamster wheel—a most undignified occurrence—but adjustments to the acceleration and braking apparatuses have almost entirely put a stop to that.

16. May
Crawler Town—touring the gardens

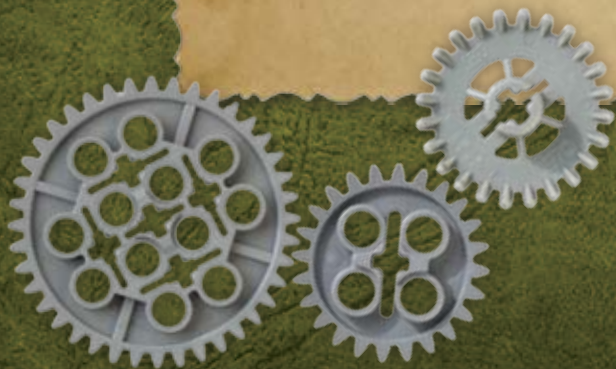
My Queen,

To quote the renowned *Literary Digest*,
“The ordinary ‘horseless carriage’ is at present
a luxury for the wealthy; and although its price
will probably fall in the future, it will never, of
course, come into as common use as the bicycle.”

These steam-powered coaches with their armoured
steel and wooden frames feature the latest in leaf
springs and sliding-gear transmissions. What does
that mean in practical terms? Forgive me, Your
Majesty, but no more horse shovels!

Yours in service,

Sir Herbert





HORSELESS CARRIAGES

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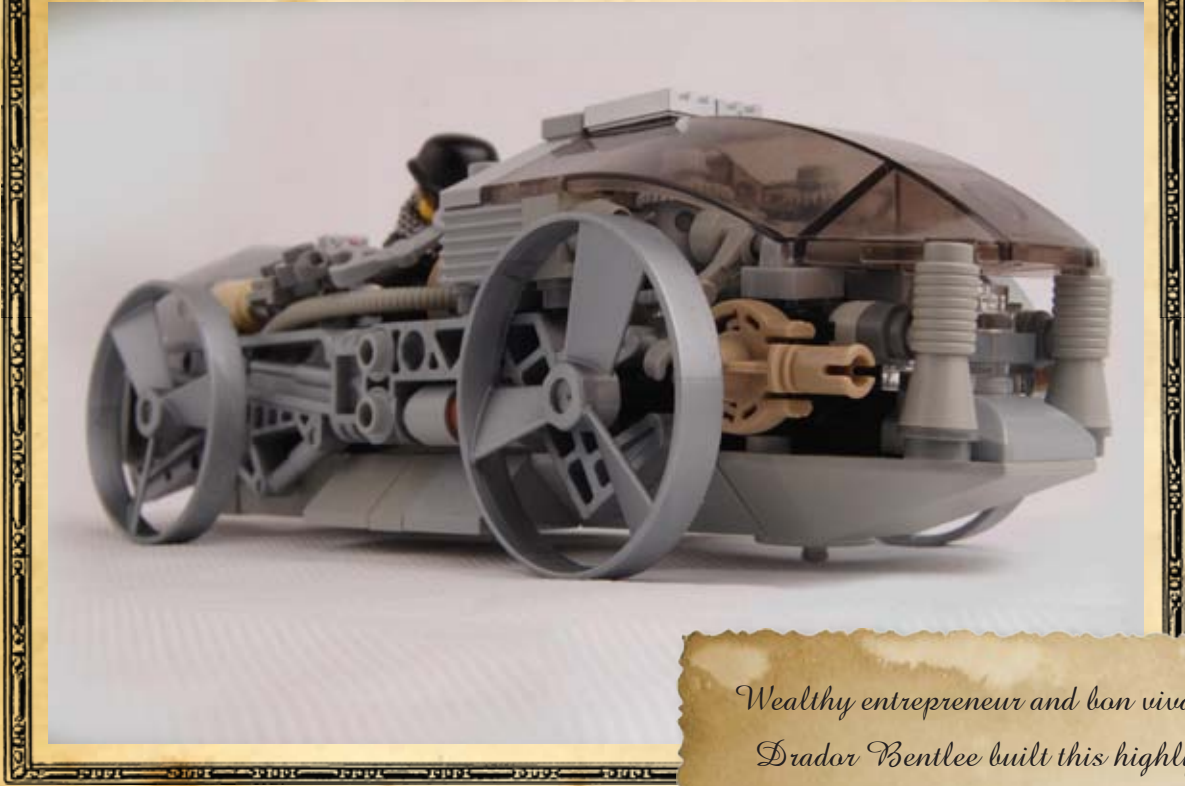
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*“Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me;
The Carriage held but just Ourselves
And Immortality.”
—Emily Dickinson*



VON BENTLEE BY LAZLO KISSIMON



Wealthy entrepreneur and bon vivant Drador Bentley built this highly embellished vehicle. After earning copious profits through his breadfruit-importing firm, Bentley turned his attentions to creating the most decadent and luxurious craft ever constructed. Unhampered by budget or common sense, the Von Bentley has become a symbol of “flash” over substance. Catcalls accompanied the maiden voyage of the Von Bentley as it rolled pompously down King’s Road this past winter.



WORTHINGTON AND SMITH BY THÉO BONNER



The Worthington and Smith (W&S for short) is renowned throughout the Empire for its many modern innovations. Features such as the monotube steam generator, the automated water-feed controller, and the low-pressure boiler make the W&S an appealing option for the novice driver.

HEDGEHOG

BY PIOTR RYBAK



The hardy, aptly named "Hedgehog" moves forward via the recently popularized tread system, and the frame is joined to heavy-duty springs and rear-facing exhaust pipes. The "Hog" can traverse the most challenging of obstacles to deliver a thunderous volley of over 50 cannons firing in unison!

Fig. III

STEAMIKOMA BY THÉO BONNER



POSTAGE DUE *50c*



This four-legged walker can easily traverse any irregular surface, even the worst ruts and lumpiest cobblestones. Whenever the fire needs coal, however, the driver must stop the machine and descend from the seat to access the rear boiler and refuel.

MACHINE NO. 1 BY VINCENT GACHOD



This horseless carriage, which one might term an “all-terrain vehicle,” represents a remarkable step in modern innovation.

Foregoing traditional building materials, its builder has outfitted it with finely hammered Tin fenders painted a luminous Paris Green. Though sleek, this roudy upstart will have to prove itself functional without proper gears, rivets, and beams.



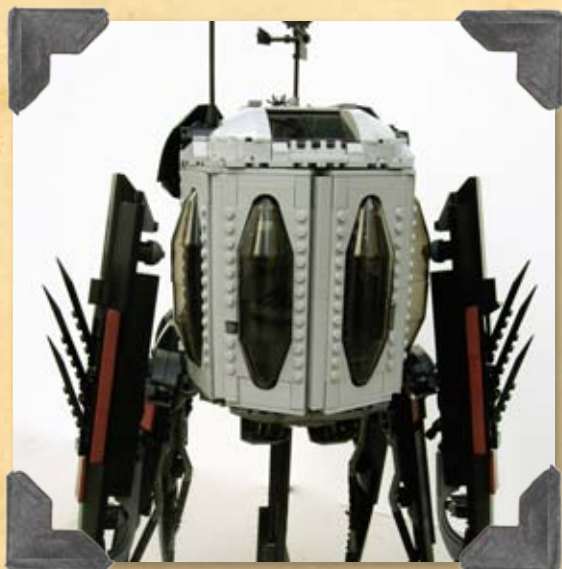
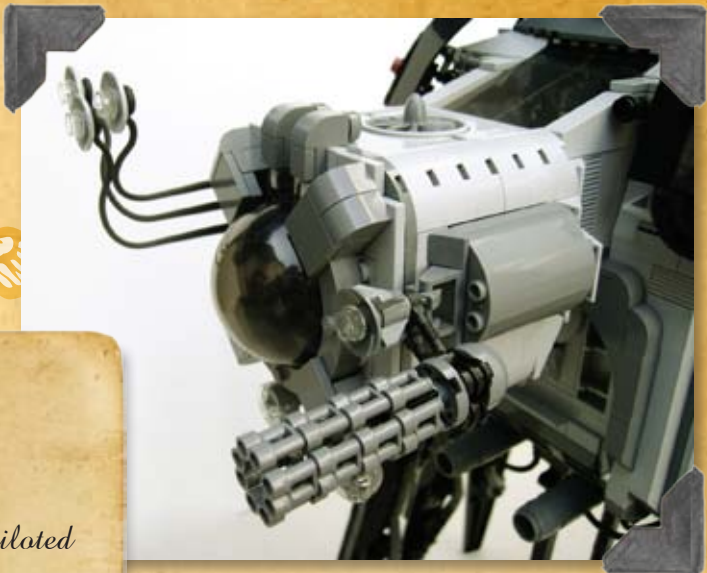
Sir, there seem to be some worrisome reports that the Paris Green paint is also useful as a Rodenticide!

Lt. Penfold



VINCENT GACHOD'S T6-CLANKER

This mechanized, multilegged war machine is piloted by a crew of five—commonly called Brass Soldiers. The Clanker is armed with defence against Zeppelins in mind, with twin Rampage .45 caliber Gatling guns and a Black Powder-class forward cannon.



CRAWLER TOWN AND SALTY TOWN

BY DAVE DEGOBBI



Crawler Town



POST OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE



GARD
ADDRESS ONLY

domestic
one pence
foreign
three pence

A variety of working cranes, elevators, shops, and living quarters gives Crawler Town a pleasingly industrious appearance. It features a full grandstand on the top level for viewing its famous Aero 500 races.



Many journey to Crawler Town to vacation or trade for fresh vegetables and beer. This bustling mobile town traverses the countryside in search of underground mineral supplies and fresh water. Talk to any inhabitant, and you will hear a compelling tale of the community's self-sufficiency.

This roving hamlet has bred an environmentally conscious society that covers its habitation with sun energy jars, wind-spun electric motors, water traps, and hanging vegetable gardens.

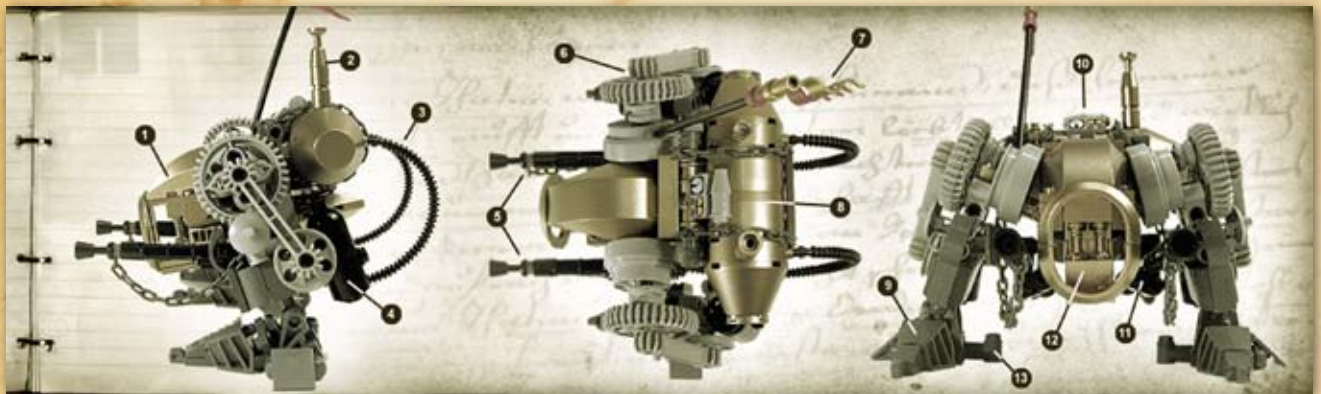
In contrast to Crawler Town we find the scurrilous hive of Salty Town. Home to a disreputable band of sinister pirates, the small city scouts the open plains in search of smaller, poorly defended British villages to pillage and plunder.



KRIEGERHUND BY JAMIE SPENCER



As we face the double-edged sword of our rapidly expanding Empire, this fearsome unmanned war machine, the Kriegerhund, may be the answer to our labour challenges. We might one day deploy these vigilant electrical chaps to quell our enemies far and wide.



- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Armoured brass body | 6. Leg actuators | 11. Automatic cannon loader |
| 2. Smokestack | 7. Banners | 12. Navigational "eye" |
| 3. Fuel connectors | 8. Steam engine (coal) | 13. Motion stabilizers |
| 4. Combustion chambers | 9. Foot assembly | |
| 5. 12-pound cannons | 10. Status panel | |

DARDENBAHST BY JAMIE SPENCER

The Dardenbahst is designed to be driven by a single skilled pilot, assisted by several crew members.

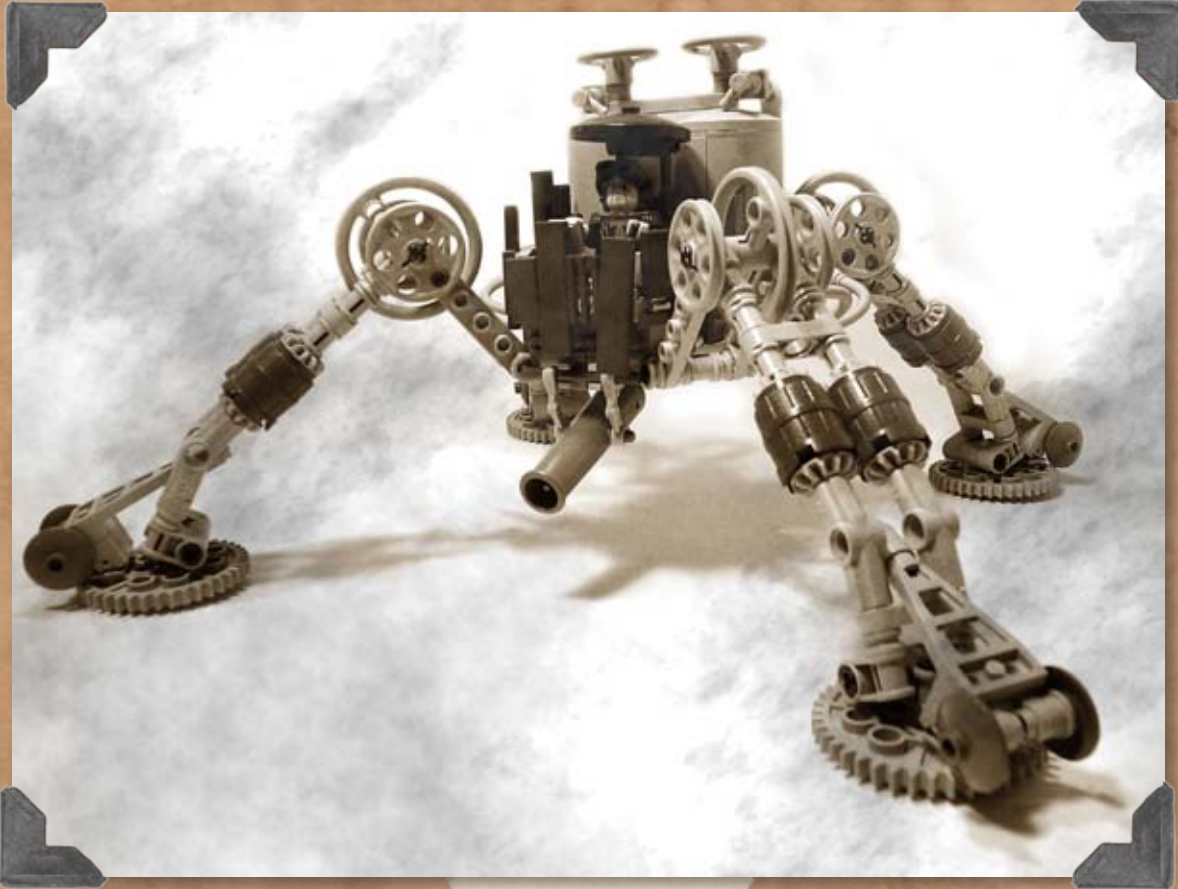
Among other jobs, it ferries cumbersome repair materials to outlying villages, scrubs down the grungy undersides of massive metal airships, and assists on construction projects under dangerous conditions.



- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brass water boiler | 6. Mechanical arms | 11. Dual-machine pistol |
| 2. Instrumentation | 7. Banners | 12. Smokestack |
| 3. Pilot cab & socket | 8. Steam engine (coal) | 13. Leg actuators |
| 4. Work lanterns | 9. Combustion chambers | 14. Maintenance hatch |
| 5. Foot assembly | 10. Main steam stop valve | |

TRIPODI

BY TYLER CLITES



As the debate between two-legged and four-legged amblers continues in the learned halls of our universities, one impatient builder has found an honourable compromise by choosing three legs for this fleet walker. I highly recommend it for daring souls with a need for tripod-fueled adventure.

STEAM PRANCER

BY SIMON JACKSON



Another advocate of three-legged locomotion, Captain Tzidik developed the Steam Prancer. After being cheated in a game of paille maille, he was heard to exclaim, "You are a fraud, a degenerate, and a rogue, sir!" as he thundered down upon the offending party's home in the Prancer. The Prancer has the strength of 12 ordinary draft animals, a fact that Tzidik's nemesis learned firsthand as the enraged Captain sheared the supports beneath the rooflines of the miscreant's summer teahouse!

TERREQUAD

BY FLORIAN SCHWAB

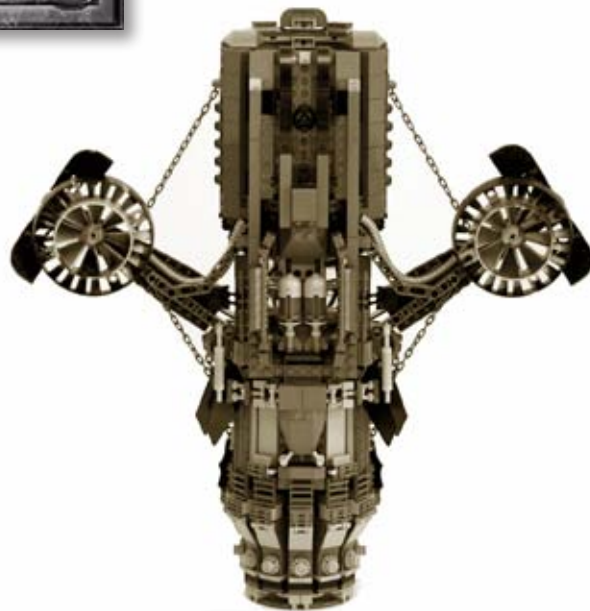


The TerreQuad's instruments of motion create a delightful manifestation of fleetness. At first its spindly legs may appear unstable, but this amazing contraption can parade forth as a mobile headquarters, allowing commanders both creature comforts and a complete aerial view of the battlefield.

CALLOUSED BOXER

BY ZACH CLAPSADLE

This vessel is often referred to as a “flying boat” because it quite literally floats on the air, achieving altitude with Cavorite propellers. Travelling long distances to deliver cargo, the Calloused Boxer uses tow cables to haul its shipments.

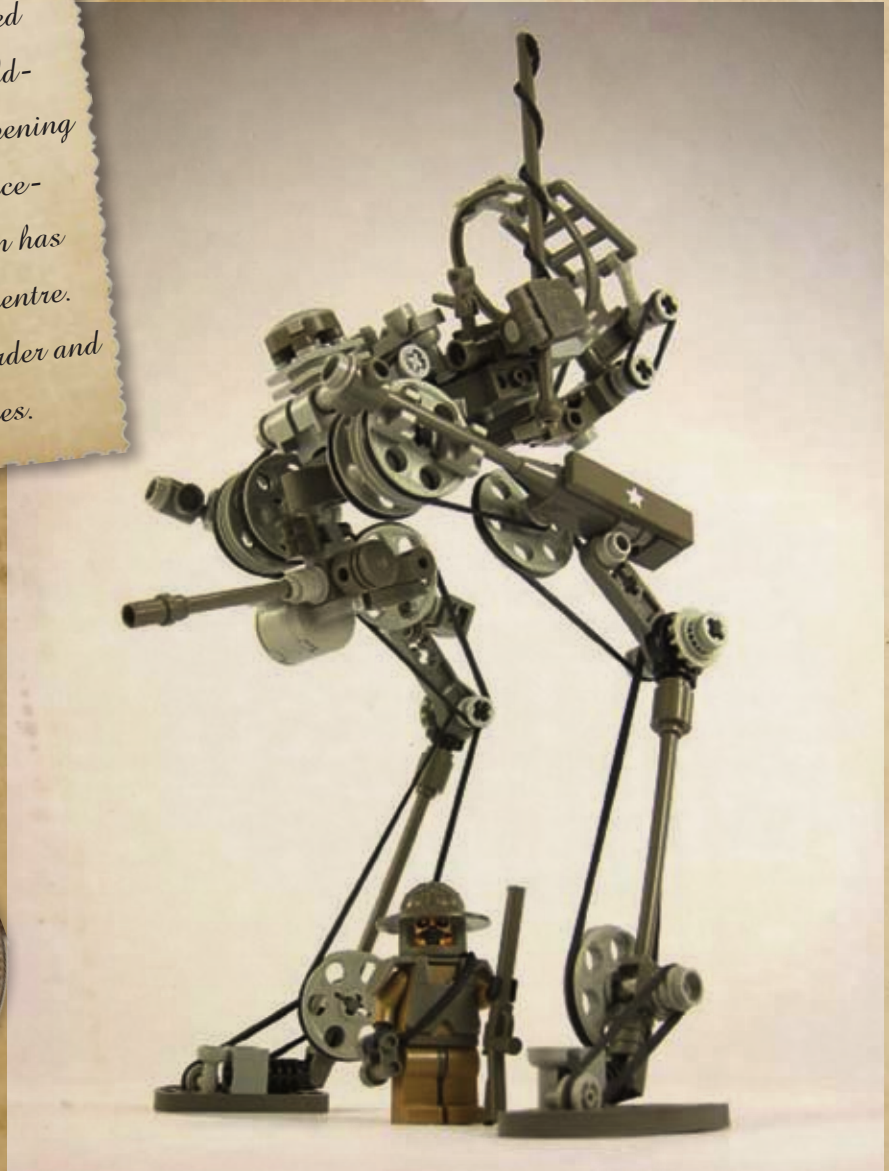


The Boxer is easily recognizable by the distinctive grille shapes over its cowl vents and tail cone. Aerodynamic bulges on the chassis cover the valves and exhaust system.

BLUE ORPINGTON

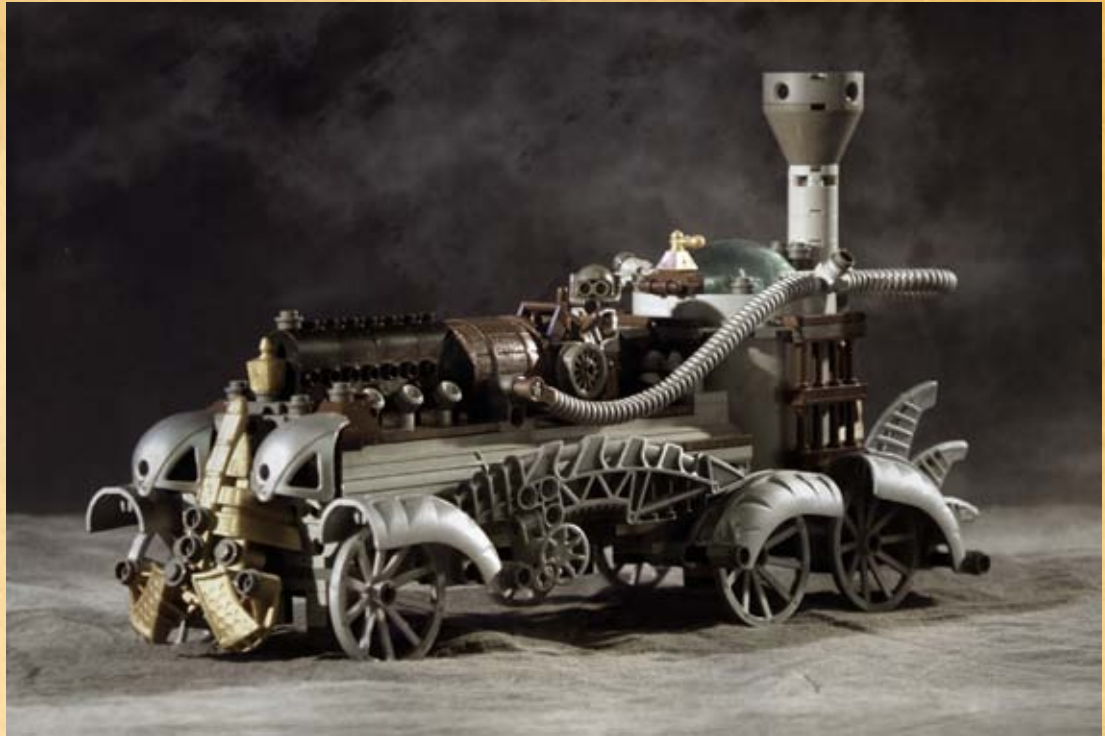
BY BRIAN KESCENOVITZ

Developed in the suburban wards of southeast London, the Blue Orpington walker was inspired by the stride of the area's world-renowned chickens. Since the opening of the railway station, the once-peaceful village of Orpington has become a major commercial centre. The walkers help maintain order and supervise cargo exchanges.



V&A STEAMWORKS

THE VICTORIA STEAM CARRIAGE



The Victoria Steam Carriage put V&A Steamworks on the map. It was the first coach to harness mysterious artifacts, initially unearthed from a Dover cliffside, that contained strange organic-mechanical metals with unknown powers. The quest for more of these valuable elements has left the surrounding landscape pockmarked with holes and digging-site debris.



PUNKFISH

BY MICAH BERKOFF



Part of a joint venture between Arkov Armoury and the Kensington Fisheries Guild, the Punkfish has the ability to tread directly from the turf into the surf. This coach is used to research the local whitefish population of Cod, Haddock, and Caley, thereby guaranteeing a steady supply of fish and chips to accompany our mushy peas.

Sir, I recommend Mr. Lee's fine establishment in Mossley for the best fish dinner!

Lt. Penfold

THE MOLE

BY JORDAN SCHWARTZ



The Mole was developed exclusively for travel through the maze of volcanic tubes that some believe lead deep into the Earth, perhaps into its very centre. This brave transport is equipped with exceptional digging abilities in the hope that its crew could burrow their way to the surface in an emergency. One team has already embarked on an exploratory journey with the sole existing prototype. Subterranean travel enthusiasts anxiously await these explorers' successful return.





HEX WALKER BY BART DE DOBBELAER



This dashing conveyance helped popularize the term "walker bot." The HEX Walker is well suited to performing rescue missions and is featured in many stirring tales of derring-do.





STEAM SPEEDER BY ERIC DRUON



The Speeder was inspired by the work of pioneering genius John Stears.

One major design challenge the construction crew faced was that of making it hover. The favorite coating the builders used on the underside of the Speeder allows it to achieve remarkably smooth progress as it floats easily over rough cobblestones.

THE BONESHAKER

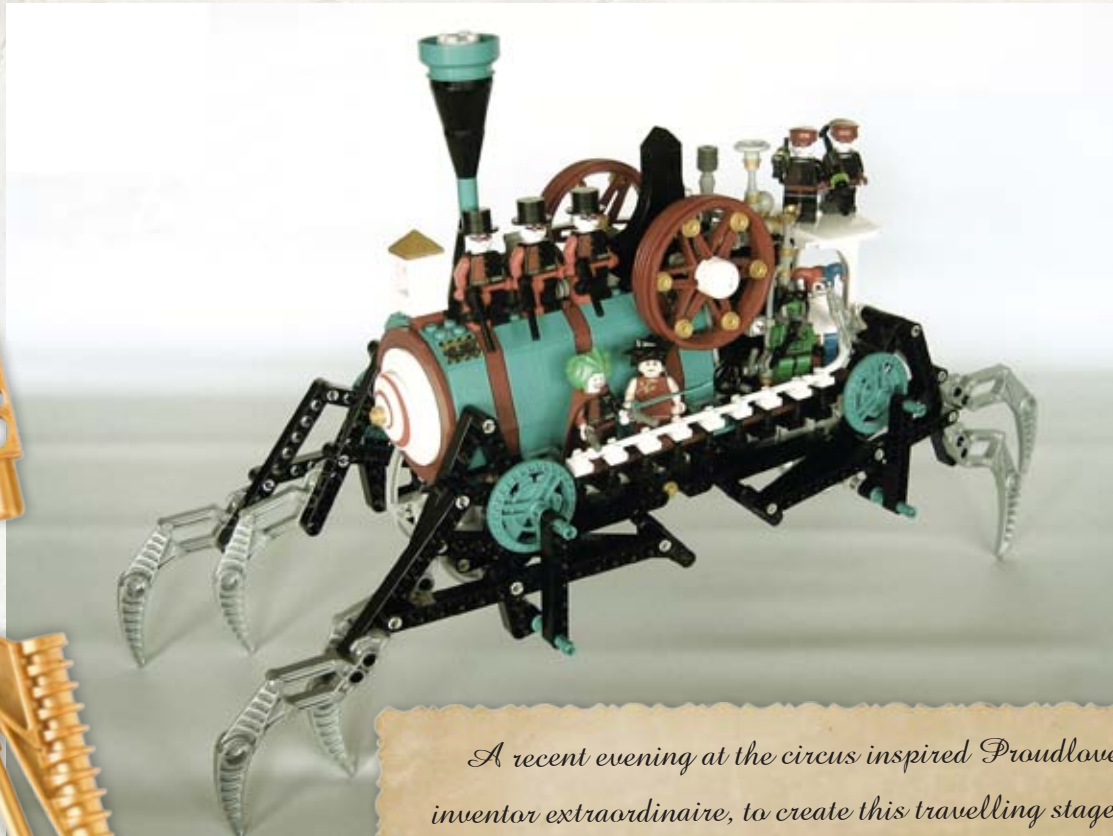
BY NATHAN PROUDLOVE



Unlike the beloved velocipede of the same name, this armoured transport earned its moniker from soldiers who felt the rattle and boom of its guns deep in their bones. The thunderous voice of the cannon's retort makes the Boneshaker a truly formidable beast.

KAPTAIN KAZOODLE AND THE TRAVELLING CIRCUS OF DOOM

BY NATHAN PROUDLOVE



A recent evening at the circus inspired Proudlove, inventor extraordinaire, to create this travelling stage for sideshow entertainers. After building the inner structure, Proudlove invited the local acting troop to “test drive” it in the neighbouring hamlet, much to the delight of the villagers. Determined to promote circus lore throughout the world, this travelling enterprise tours the countryside and displays the finest sideshow attractions at no cost to the audience!

THE ÜBER ZERSTÖRER BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY



Some officers and military planners have derided the Über Zerstörer (or Super Destroyer) as a wasteful expense. Nevertheless, due to the effectiveness of this machine as a weapon of terror, Zerstörer production was prioritized over previous battle-carriage designs. The unrelenting progress of these cannon-heavy rolling monstrosities has proven that some battles can be won merely by the rattling of sabers. Good show, Captain Smog!



THE STEAMOBILE BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY



The heavy encumbrance of an oversized boiler has proven to be the greatest engineering challenge to the Steamobile.

A constant, close supply of fresh buckets of water is encouraged for the effective operation (and safety) of this massive carriage.

Recently, the Manufactory added a clever steam condenser system which helps minimize the need for vehicle (and driver) hydration, but at the cost of an additional 20 stone of overall vehicle weight. After gentle and patient prodding, the massive Steamobile can achieve heretofore unheard-of levels of acceleration and torque!



2. June

V&A Steamworks—Cheery Weapons Division

Your Majesty,

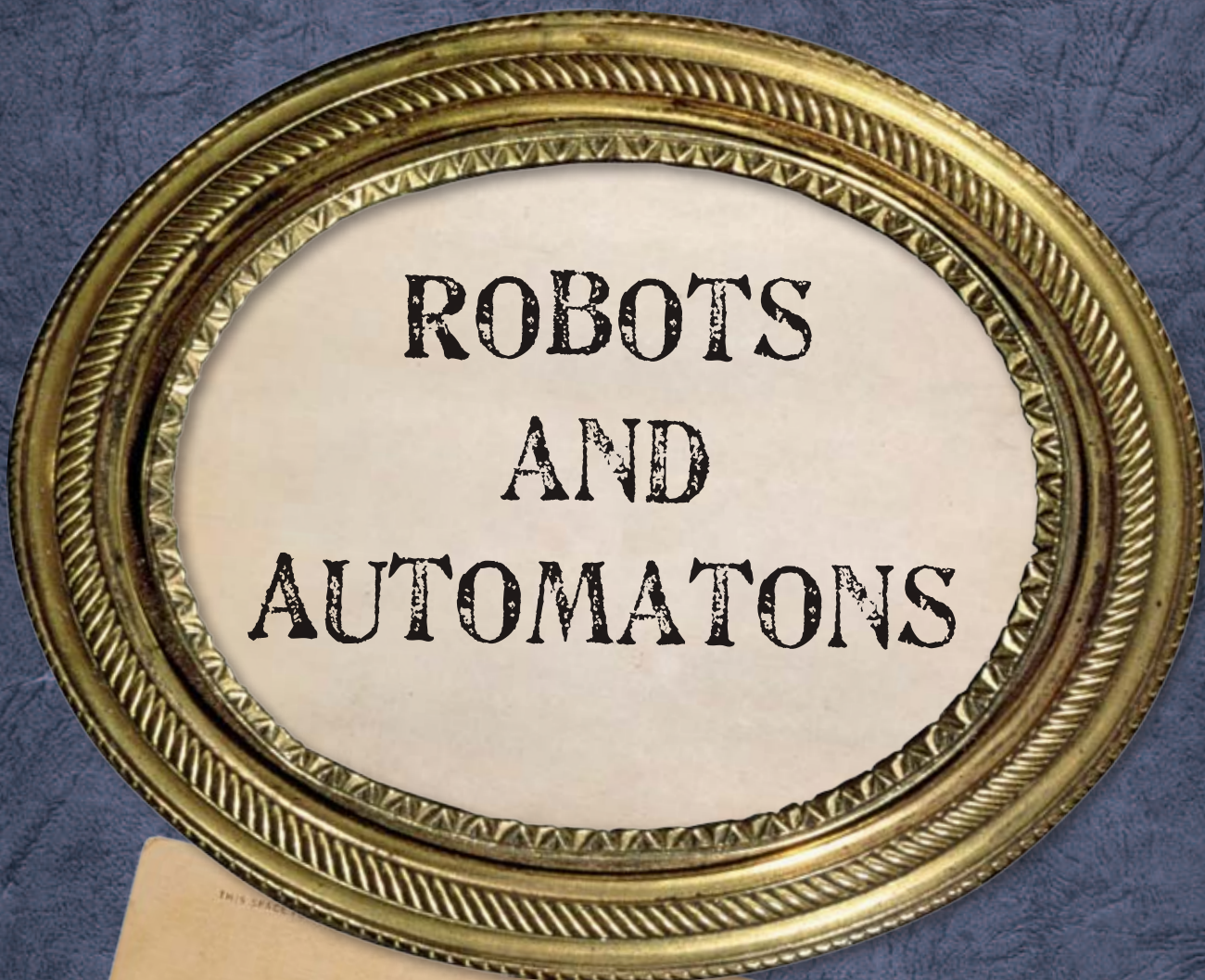
The proud tradition of the infantryman (though he may be vulgarly referred to as “cannon fodder”) may soon be overtaken by Automaton. We may be seeing a bright day for the Mechanical Man and a dark one for the Common Man.

Filling the hazardous fields of battle, these Mechanical Marvels range from small, man-sized machines to deadly “Iron Men” the size of buildings. Many of these Automaton are so lifelike that they could don tailcoats and play host at a proper gala!

Our crafty inventors and scientists are busily innovating steely threats for those foolish enough to doubt Britannia’s military power and exuberance. I have observed that the red eyes of these automated soldiers glow with the glory of service.

Your loyal Servant,

Sir Herbert



**ROBOTS
AND
AUTOMATONS**

THIS SPACE
POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

*“More Human than Human’
is our motto...”*

—Dr. Eldon Tyrell

TROLL CRUSHER

BY AARON ANDREWS



This massive yet elegant ironclad "Soul Crusher" comes from the distant colony of Australia. It delights the ears with a symphony of lovely whirring and clanking sounds as it fulfills its inexplicable mission of crushing souls and other objects in service to its master.

Sir, not the
"Soul Crusher" but
the "Troll Crusher."

Lt. Penfold



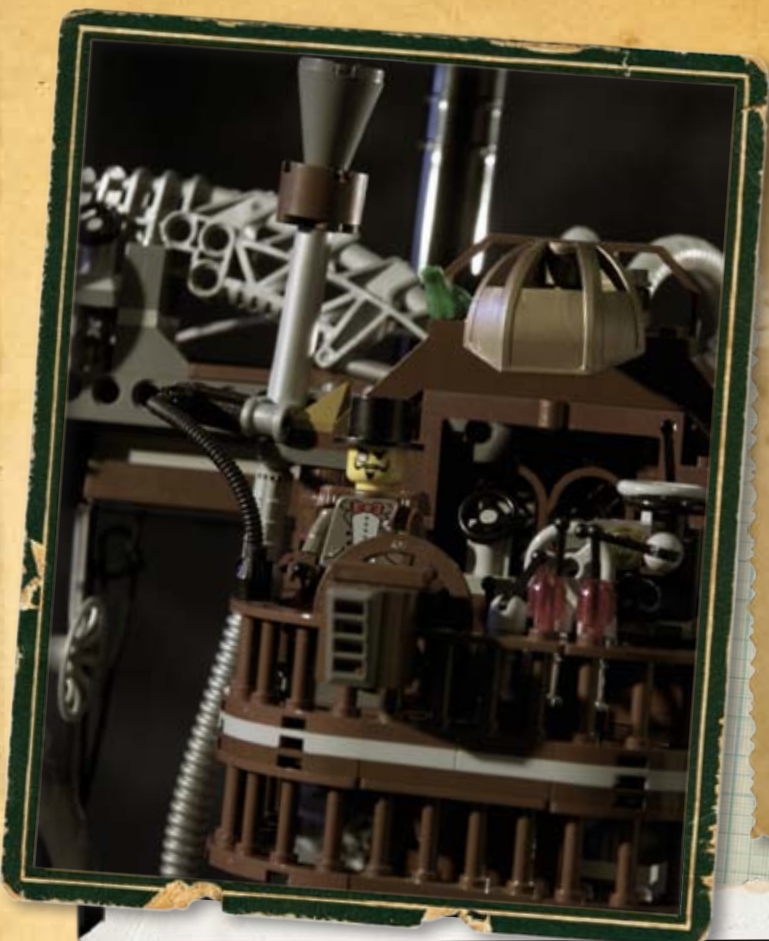
*I have been assured
by the designer of this
fine Automaton that it
will NEVER attempt
to evolve and destroy
the British Empire.
Though I must admit the
unnerving to-and-fro motion
of the single, glowing red
eye did not help set my
fears to rest...*

**THE RED-EYED
CENTURION
BY ANDERTOONS**

TESLA
MAN-MACHINE
BY V&A STEAMWORKS

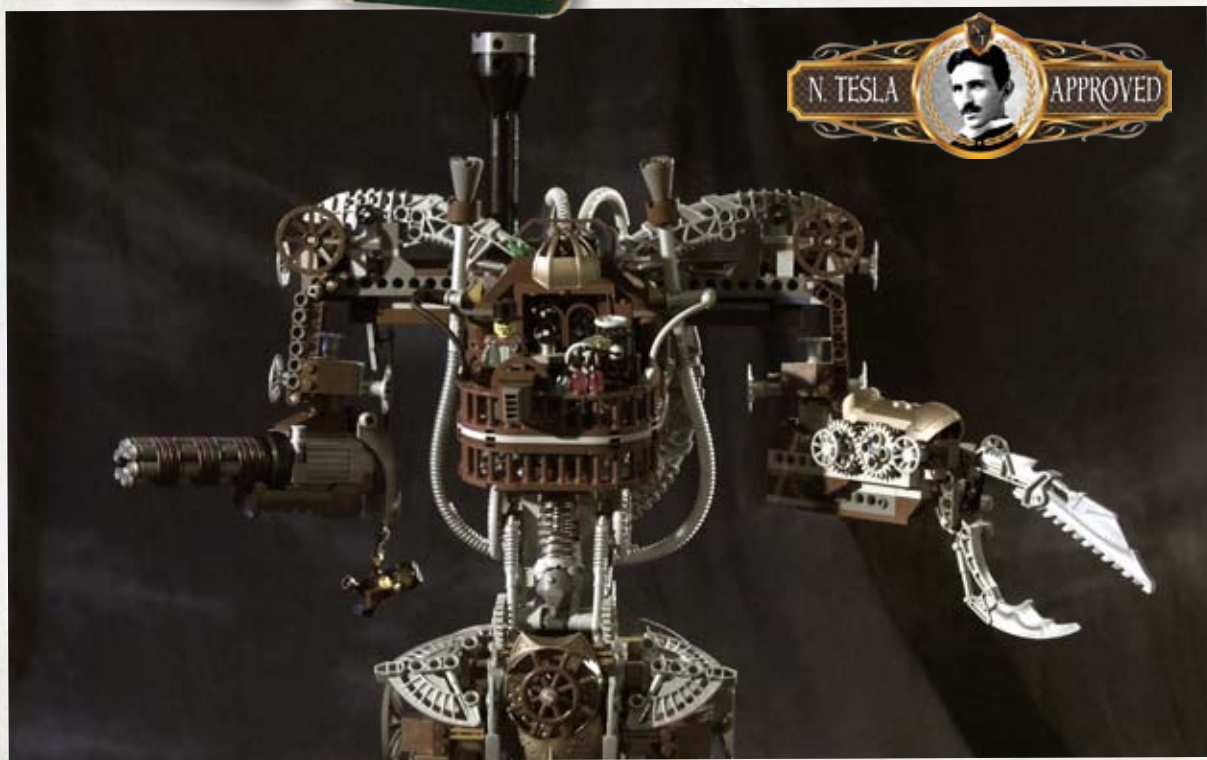


*Guaranteed to strike dread
into even the most stalwart of
opposing infantrymen!*



Developed with the help of our cleverest of cohorts, Nicola Tesla, the Man-Machine towers over the battlefield. This gargantuan robot is capable of wreaking havoc on a level previously undreamt of!

Protected by thick armour, this metal soldier incorporates a Herculean Gatling Gun mounted on one arm and, on the opposing arm, a great, pinching mechanical hand and a flamethrower. An observation deck provides an excellent vantage point for Generals.



ROBOT RESEARCH LABS BY V&A STEAMWORKS



I entered the familiar parlour of V&A Steamworks and was warmly greeted by Lord Dimbers's dogsboddy. We took a winding path through the richly appointed library and into the vast workshop space. Networks of wires and hoses snaked past piles of various diagrams and complicated-looking components.

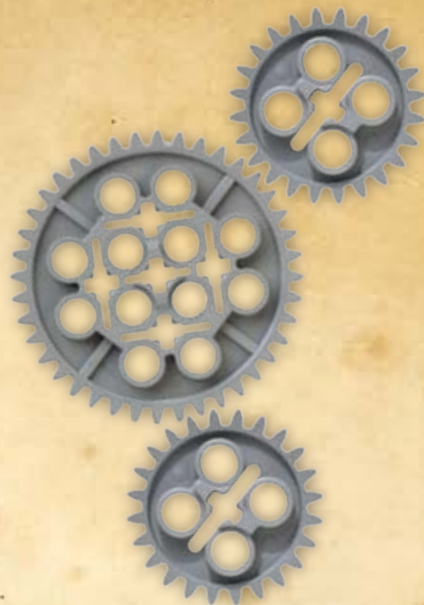




The assembled scientists regaled me with tales of chivalry and derring-do. When I inquired as to the completion status of their latest invention and a possible demonstration, I was quickly distracted with offers of baked treats with clotted cream and tropical fruit jams. In the end, I never saw the promised mechanical wonder function.

(This quibble aside, the scones were delicious!)





He may not be suited
for houses with pets or
rat-sized children...

Lt. Penfold

What better way to impress your guests than with a perfect gentleman who happens to be a Metal Man? Recent technological breakthroughs from the inventor's workshop now allow you to hobnob with your very own personal (and blindly loyal) mechanical manservant!

He will tirelessly swap your chamber pots, kill stray rats, and prepare the finest of teas in your best china. This anthropomorphic brute has the manners of a dandy and the strength of a hundred men. I've placed an order for three.



QUEEN'S HAMMER

BY HAMMERSTEIN NWC



Piloted by a handsome Yorkshireman, Commander Hampton Grimes, this mighty machine is armed with a Coal Fusion Cannon. Affectionately nicknamed "The Hammer," this steam-powered addition to the field of conflict often spells the difference between victory and defeat for our combat regiments.

M-6 PROTECTOTRON

BY TYLER CLITES



My initial researches into the origins of these fine Mechanical Men-at-Arms led me on a merry chase. First attributed to the mysteriously named "Master Donut," these marvels eventually turned out to be works of that familiar scamp Professor Clites.

When confronted with his misleading mendacities, the professor explained that a rival professor had been engaging in a long and drawn-out campaign of dire espionage in hopes of stealing Professor Clites's secrets—hence the nom de guerre. According to rumour, a cup of "tainted" Earl Grey tea has resolved the conflict in a permanent fashion.

PROUD LARRY

BY TYLER CLITES



At first I was put off by Proud Larry. At rest, he produced a sound akin to a horde of sinister insects. Yet I found myself exclaiming "By George!" when he stepped forward and offered up a mighty metal hand in greeting. Styled with a tip of the top hat to medieval armour, the golden flanks of our metal friend Larry shine brilliantly as he sallies forth, firing round after round from his charming rifle.

Proud Larry can battle up to one half-hour with just a single winding!

Lt. Penfold

Viscount Gillies was commissioned by the mad Ottoman Sultan, Murad V, to manufacture this marvelous steam-driven Automaton. During its subsequent European tour, the contraption was quickly nicknamed "Otto."



Available with a
"kilt option," whatever
that might entail...

Lt. Penfold

OTTO THE OTTOMAN AUTOMATON BY ROD GILLIES

THE IRON DUKE

BY ROD GILLIES



This hardy Automaton hails from the peat-filled Highlands. From what I could discern from the thickly accented speech of the inventor, "Something, something...freedom... something...sheep...something..." I leave it to Penfold to attempt a further translation of the Viscount's challenging words.

Yet, a quick assessment reveals the exceptional principle of construction underlying this daunting beastie, "The Iron Duke." Sheathed in meticulously crafted brass armour, the Duke can easily rout whole squads of opponents. You shall be the victor in your Vendetta du Jour with the Duke by your side.



IRON BRAWLER

BY TIM ZARKI



Though a purely cold and calculating machine often executes the noble purposes of the Empire best, at times a hybrid of man, machine, and monster offers superior service. After all, when diplomacy has failed, the next best solution is a generous dose of crushing, giant claws. I guarantee smooth negotiations when you show up clad in the Iron Brawler.

The impressive claws are even precise enough to gather haddock for fish and chips!

Lt. Penfold

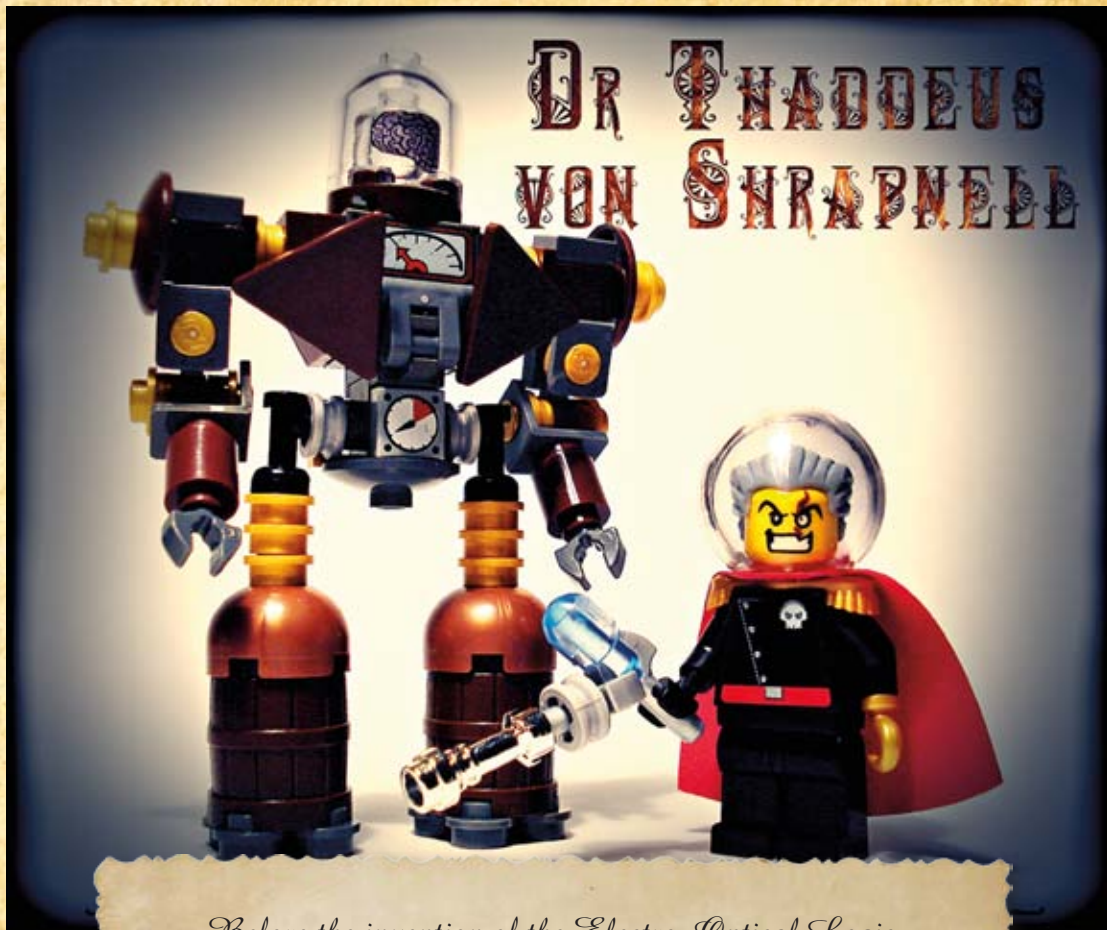
OCULUS DIVE SUIT

BY TIM ZARKI



Conquest of the deep requires foresight, organization, and a bloody giant harpoon gun. The Oculus provides the gun; you provide the will to master undersea denizens as you engage in fisticuffs with giant squids and wayward whales! Withstand killing pressures as you conquer the dark abyss.

SHRAPNELL AUTOMATON BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY

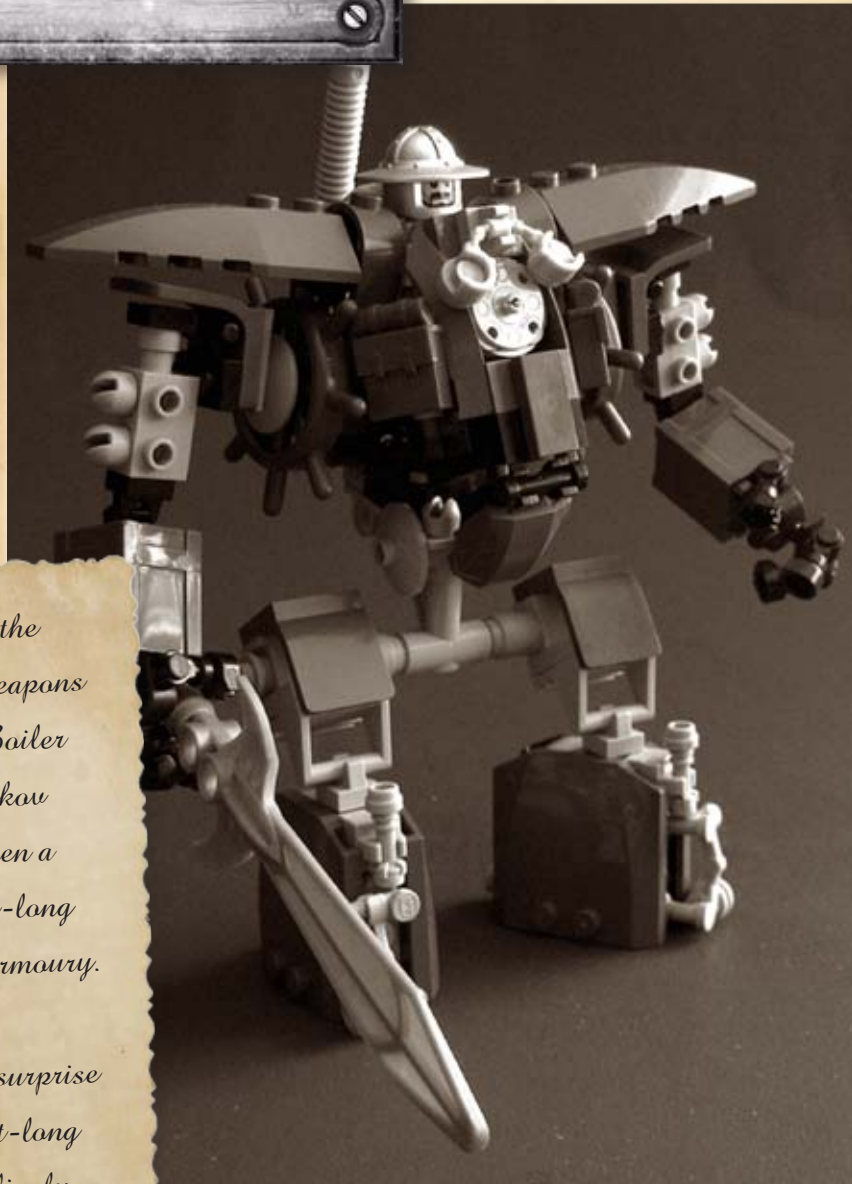


Before the invention of the Electro-Optical Logic Machine (which uses photoconductors and gas-discharge tubes to formulate logic and courtesy calculations), the designers at Captain Smog Manufactory were challenged to find a “brain” to command their robotic creations.

Dr. Thaddeus von Shrapnell came upon the cost-saving measure of using real human brains! This technology allowed the doctor’s machines to govern their own behaviour with willful independence of thought and motivation.

BOILER KNIGHT

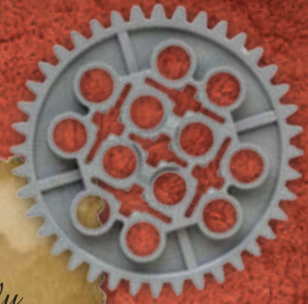
BY MICAH BERKOFF



A miscommunication with the sword smiths at the Royal Weapons Forge spawned the mighty Boiler Knight Division from Arkov Armoury. It all began when a misread order for (20) 3-foot-long swords was delivered to the Armoury.

Imagine Admiral Arkov's surprise when he received (3) 20-foot-long swords! Not one to waste finely crafted weapons, the Admiral commissioned the construction of these formidable suits of exo-gallantry to wield the potent golden scimitars.

Technically they are
broadswords, sir.
Lt. Penfold



9. July

Sterling Blunderbusswerks—Target practice!

Most Gracious Queen,

Allow me to welcome Your Majesty to the competitive world of arms sales. The offerings represented in the catalogues and advertisements I have collected in my research pursuits are available for immediate purchase by our armed forces! My ears are still ringing from the numerous demonstrations I have beheld.

Sundry other items of remarkable utility are included herein, which may have applications outside the realm of Defence. For instance, I have finally found a much-needed reputable source for quality pith helmets!

By Your Majesty's command,

Sir Herbert





ARMAMENTS
AND
SUNDRIES

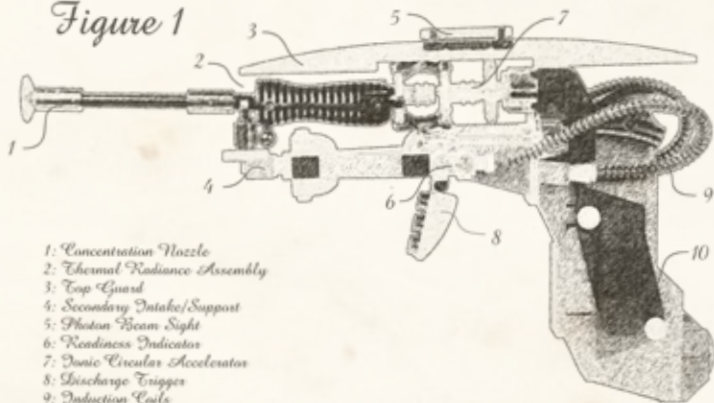


ELECTROIONIC DISCOMBOBULATOR

BY TOMMY WILLIAMSON

*The devastating
Discombobulator is a
collision of beauty and
menace. Phantasmal forces
are produced by the interaction
of magnetic gases within the
Discombobulator's intricate
and shiny components.
Gorgeous technology at its
most gorgeous!*

Figure 1



- 1: Concentration Nozzle
- 2: Thermal Radiance Assembly
- 3: Top Guard
- 4: Secondary Intake/Support
- 5: Photon Beam Sight
- 6: Readiness Indicator
- 7: Ionic Circular Accelerator
- 8: Discharge Trigger
- 9: Induction Coils
- 10: Capacitance Sensing Grip

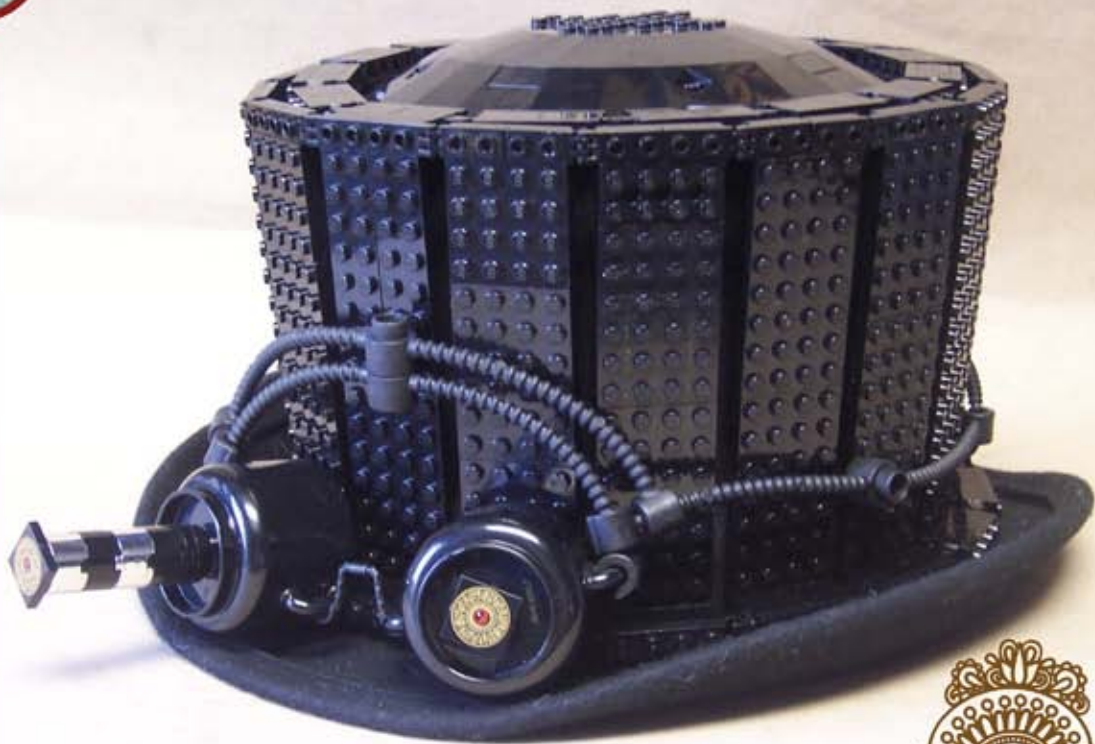
Electroionic Discombobulator



MONSTERBRICK



MERCANTILE CO.



PURVEYORS OF FINERY AND FANCY FOR THE DISCERNING GENTLEMAN
ADORNMENTS AND WHIMSY TO SUIT A CURIOUS CUSTOMER



MONSTERBRICK



The handsome MB No. 5 is a richly textured chest featuring a boxlike shape for enhanced durability! Lined with the finest Platypus and Emu furs, it will keep safe your precious things.

Crafted from polished Ebony, the MB No. 12 promises to turn your most trifling ideas into the finest prose.

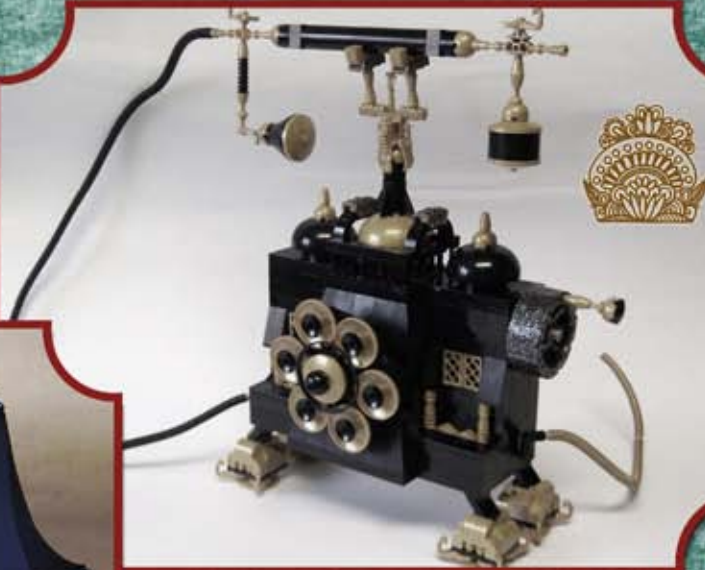


Weary of burning books to fuel your smoke signals? The MB No. 8 is your answer! Message your comrades via the power of radiotelegraphy and its complicated code-speak!

MERCANTILE CO.



The MB No. 9 features a mysterious magneto generator crank. The rotary dial makes a reassuring clicking sound.



The MB No. 3's Cylinders of Beeswax allow the capture of your very breath! Preserve the kind preachings of your elders in a permanent fashion!

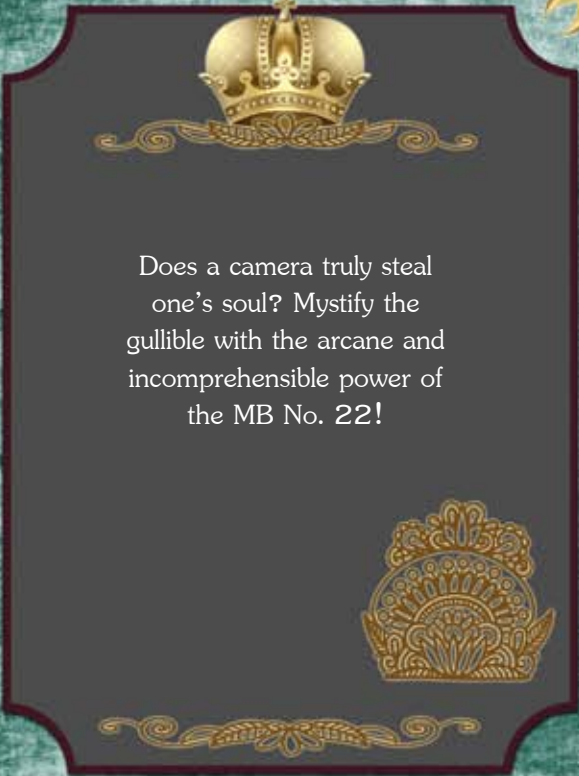


Bits and Bobbins! What better way to mend your adventure-worn finery than with the miracle of thread! Create ship sails or jodhpurs with ease!



Hello?
Who is there?

A bright and fantastic future,
that's who! The MB No. 7 has a
sleek, modern style; the faceted
dial adds a touch of luxury.



Does a camera truly steal
one's soul? Mystify the
gullible with the arcane and
incomprehensible power of
the MB No. 22!



MONSTERBRICK'S DERRINGER

BY MONSTERBRICK MERCANTILE



POSTAGE DUE



Nicknamed "The Problem-Solver
Revolver," the tiny MB No. 1
Derringer is ideal for covert agents or
anyone for whom discretion is of the
utmost importance!

BRAVEHEART DISRUPTOR

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

The tapered aerodynamic shape of the Braveheart Disruptor presents an air of pride and defiance. Foil various and sundry plots with the wonderfully powerful heat-ray setting!



It warms my heart to see a faithful and patriotic colonial trooper, smoke pluming from the barrel of his rifle! Reminds me of my days in the force!

GEAR MAKES THE MAN!



Phase Haggis Pistol



"Old Misty"
Breathing Aid



Auto Scribe
Mapping Device



Sticky Dolphin
Magnet Mine



Queen's Fist
Rocket Pack



GX200
Entrenchment
Tool



Utility Cylinders



Leather Gadget Bag

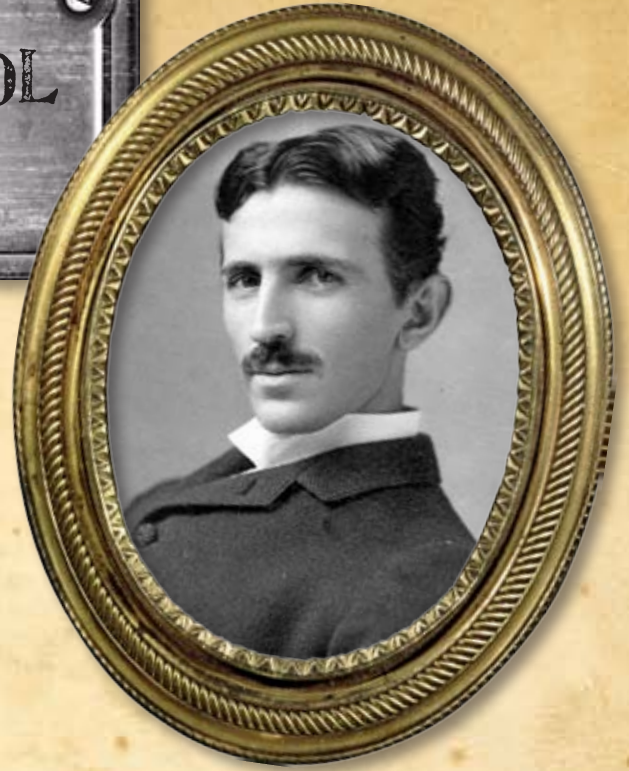


Braveheart Disruptor

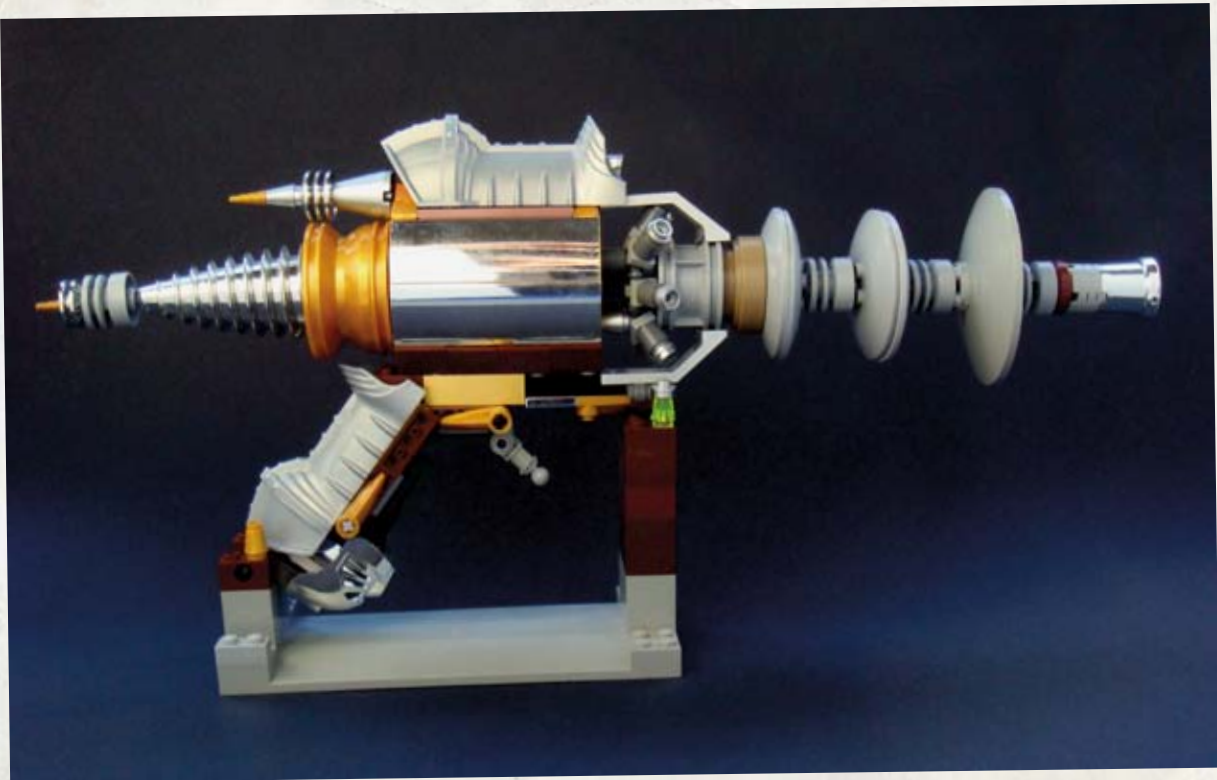
JOIN THE SPECIAL BRITISH
COLONIAL FORCES TODAY!

TESLA'S PIGEON PISTOL

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

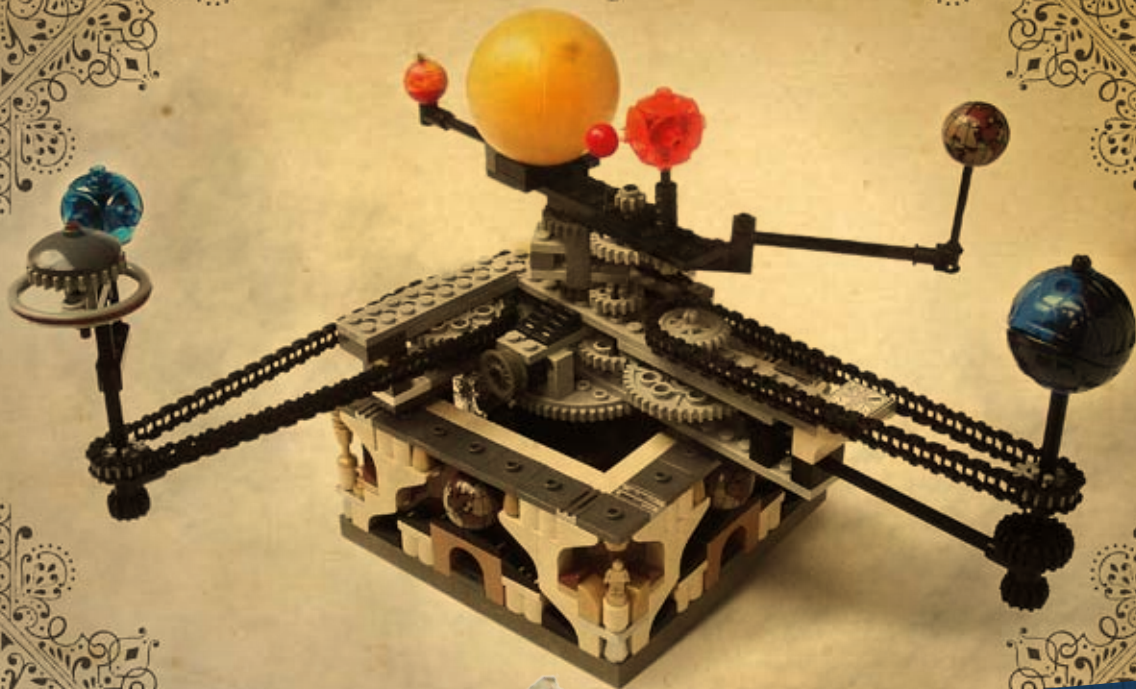


Having coined the term "Lightning Gun," Mr. Tesla put his full powers into the crafting of the insanely powerful—yet elegant—Ray Pistol known as "The Pigeon." Guaranteed to create disbelief and awe in the hearts of your rivals!



ORRERY BY V&A STEAMWORKS

Know the secrets of the Universe!



PARIS

CARTE POSTALE

Tous les pays d'étrangers n'acceptent pas la correspondance au recto, se renseigner à La Poste.

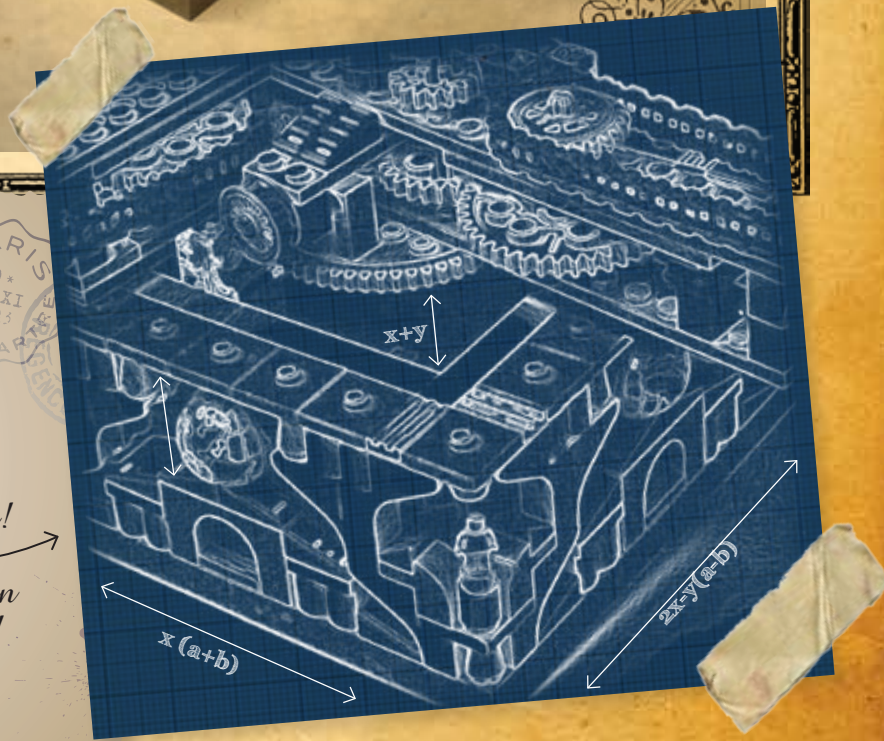
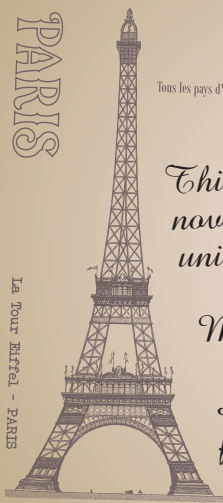


This innovative and spiffy novelty puts a clockwork universe in your hands!

Magnilinear Construction!

Another noble contraption from V&A Steamworks!

La Tour Eiffel - PARIS



CROWN ROYALE INFINITY RIFLE BY V&A STEAMWORKS



Why lurk in the shadows when hunting big game? Issue forth the sweet taste of adventure with the all-new Crown Royale Infinity Rifle from the crack shots at V&A Steamworks. Don't let the elaborate etchings fool you. This weapon will deliver a powerful, pulsed-wave modulation beam capable of turning 12-inch plate steel into treacle pudding!



THE ANNIHILATOR

BY CAPTAIN SMOG

HER MAJESTY'S ELITE SOLDIERS PREFER



THE ANNIHILATOR

Built to blast enemies into very small parts

The Annihilator causes cruel and permanent disassembly by means of experimental vapours channelled through a sonic stabilizer.



My Queen, I am not entirely sure what this jargon means, but I have been assured it is fairly reliable and often safe...

LORD STERLING'S RIFLE BY STERLING BLUNDERBUSSWERKS



Famed for their vast inventory of "vengeance weapons," the engineers at Sterling Blunderbusswerks have forged a complex relationship between death beams and richly textured burnished hardwood. An abundance of metallic embellishments and elaborate gold detailing means Lord Sterling quality!



**LORD STERLING'S ENTROPIC MOLECULE DISRUPTOR
BY STERLING BLUNDERBUSSWERKS**

MISS DONOVAN'S FARNSWORTH



BY STERLING BLUNDERBUSSWERKS

*Want to sense the evil intentions of
your enemies? Care to view the full
spectrum of your rivals' communications?*

*The Farnsworth is for you!
Guaranteed to be highly complicated!*

SCIENTIFIC SCALE

BY BLAKE BAER



MODEL 1858
REMINGTON .45
BY MICAH BERKOFF



MODEL 1858
REMINGTON .45



Tools for the Dueling Arts

19. August

Kathmandu—bartering for a fine camel

Your Majesty,

Often my heroic adventures take me to faraway locations, where I have heard a great number of strange and marvelous tales. None was more intriguing to me than the rumour of a mysterious object called the “Ark That Walks.”

I journeyed to countless ancient temples and sought out various religious sects in pursuit of this legendary Ark. Finally, through some generous palm greasing, I found myself on a noisy train bound for Kathmandu. Once I arrived safely in that remote city, I sought out a native guide, a man who called himself Blaylock and had been recommended by mutual friends in Bombay. He was a disreputable character with a scarred face and a stony demeanour, but a few English pounds loosened his tongue, and eventually he led me to a vast underground cavern that had long been kept secret by the inhabitants of his poor village. The locals had no idea of the true nature of the feared object hidden within...



CABINET OF CURIOSITIES



Albinus Curio Cabinet
V&A Steamworks



Wunderkammer
V&A Steamworks

Time Machine
Iain Heath, Seattle



Controller Ultimo
Iain Heath, Seattle



Bast Idol
Iain Heath, Seattle



Zorak Cranium
Dr. Mobius, Portland



Poetry of Bees
Deborah Higdon, Canada

Hand of Vecna
V&A Steamworks, California



Device of Infinite Peril
Rod Gillies, Scotland

Bilund Cylinder
Joe Meno, North Carolina



Anomalocaris
Shannon Ocean, Down Under



Wayne Wagen
Wayne Hussey, Seattle

... Upon investigation of the ancient cave system, I found, at long last, the Ark That Walks. It was an odd device in the form of a sizeable Queen Anne-period hardwood cabinet, now a home for crickets and cobwebs. Protruding from the repository were mechanical arms and legs, currently in a state of disrepair, that appeared to have granted the cabinet the ability to somehow move about great distances and collect objects and curios. Nearby, a weathered leather picture album bore a single handwritten word: "Wunderkammer." The Ark contained a wonderful collection of photographs depicting a great many items both mysterious and fabulous, but no description or mention of how the strange cabinet had functioned or what arcane magicks had powered it and its thirst for artifacts.

I cannot say whether the device was capable of capturing photographs itself, nor whether its unknown inventor had created the devices in the collected images...

Ark of Bast
Plums Deify, Seattle

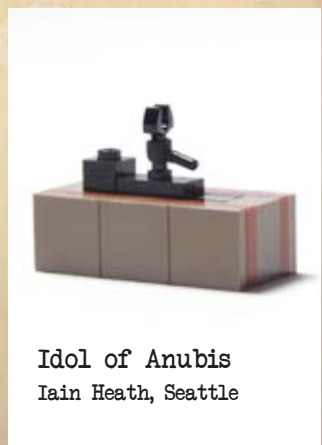




Mini Black Fantasy
Nannan Zhang, Dallas



Mini Wunderkammer
V&A Steamworks, California



Idol of Anubis
Iain Heath, Seattle



Splorp
Prof. Ley Ward, Canada



House of Heather
Prof. Heather, Seattle



HumanoidBOT
rongYIREN, China



Monsanto Might Microscope
Carl T. Merriam, California



Roboticus
Théo Bonner, Massachusetts



Check Your Box
Alex Eylar, Earth



Steam-Powered Lamp
Pascal Schmidt, Germany



Micro Hogwarts
Countess Sterling, Trempealeau



BlackPod
Nannan Zhang, Dallas



The Pee-vil
Milán Bikics, Hungary

Fiji Mermaid
Nathan Proudlove, Canada



Laughing at Gravity
Katie Walker, Washington



Tagger
Cole Blaq, Graffitiville

... The empty shelves evidenced that the original artifacts had been pillaged long ago. Although I couldn't negotiate the acquisition of the cabinet, as the village elders feared some ancient curse would be visited upon their home if the Ark were removed, I was able to barter the purchase of the photographs themselves!

May I suggest we revisit this quaint hamlet, enlighten its inhabitants as to the ways of proper civilization, and then retrieve the "Wunderkammer" for proper safekeeping back in Great Britain.

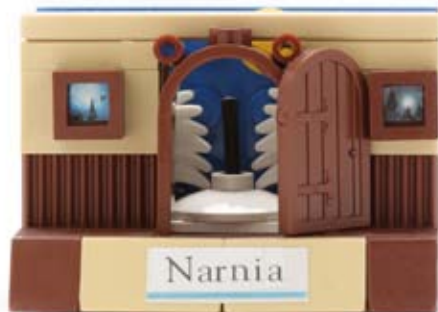
Yours in Adventure!

Sir Herbert

Draken Music Box
Tyler Clites, Florida



Island of Micro
C.J. Edwards, Pennsylvania



Wardrobe
Sean and Steph Mayo, Maryland



Castle of the Wee Loch
Matthew Maulfair, Unknown



Fire of Innovation
Baron Von Sterling, Trempealeau

Pork Chop
Jordan Schwartz, Massachusetts



Head of JuJu
Field Marshal Lino, Seattle

Jade Statue
Iain Heath, Seattle



GIR
Ryan "Chief" Wood, San Diego



The Chained Book
Iain Heath, Seattle



Chelonian
Peter Reid
United Kingdom



Vern's Blight
Chris Malloy, Washington



Micro Crawler Town
Dave DeGobbi, Canada

Caged Fiji Mermaid
Gary McIntire, San Diego



Ragdoll
Micah Berkoff, Unknown



Steaminibot
Capt. Smog, Switzerland



Lenses of Seeing
Brixwerx, Chicago



Mosaic Orange
Herr Ware, Canada



Obscura
Tommy Williamson,
California



The Badger
The Artful Badger,
Paris



Wunderkammer Larva
Rod Gillies, Scotland



Little Morris
Tim Gould,
Down Under



The Gun
Mark Neumann, Seattle



The Infernal Croaker
Karf Oohlu, Down Under





GFOL
Micah Gilliam,
Massachusetts

Friendship Faerie
Josh Wedin, Seattle



Fire Buggy
Brixwerx, Chicago

FerreroPod
Simon Liu,
Canada



Green Power Ring
Norbert Labuguen, California

CubeDude Anatomy
Angus MacLane, Portland



Espace
Bart De Dobbelaer,
Belgium



Micro Taj
Mariann Asanuma, San Diego



27. September

*Aboard Her Majesty's Victory—
Location Classified*

Your Majesty,

The dark shadow of constant nautical threats continues to inspire the development of powerful ships and weapons for the Empire's defence.

A brave Captain in the wheelhouse is required to pilot these seafaring vessels as they protect our shipping routes from foes abroad.

The Royal Navy has a long and noble history, and no wonder—our brave sailors face off against Krakens and scurvy with equal valor!

Yours in service,

Sir Herbert





SEVEN SEAS

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“The royal navy of England has ever been its greatest defence and ornament; it is its ancient and natural strength; the floating bulwark of the island...”
—Sir William Blackstone

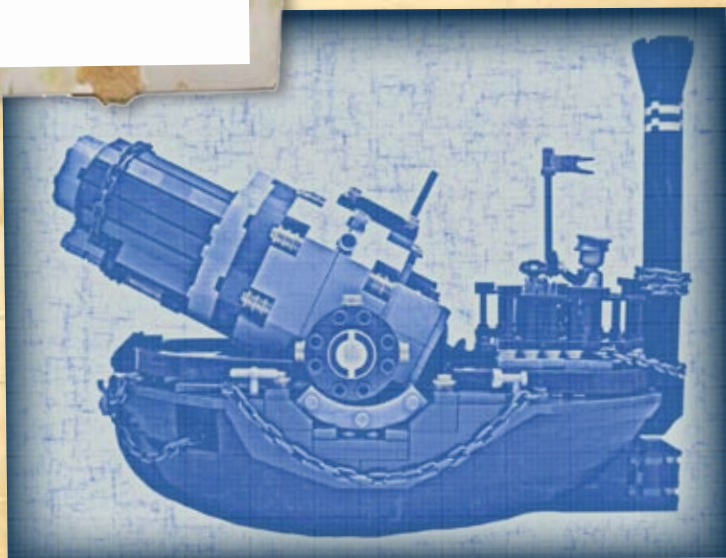
VULCAN

BY ROD GILLIES

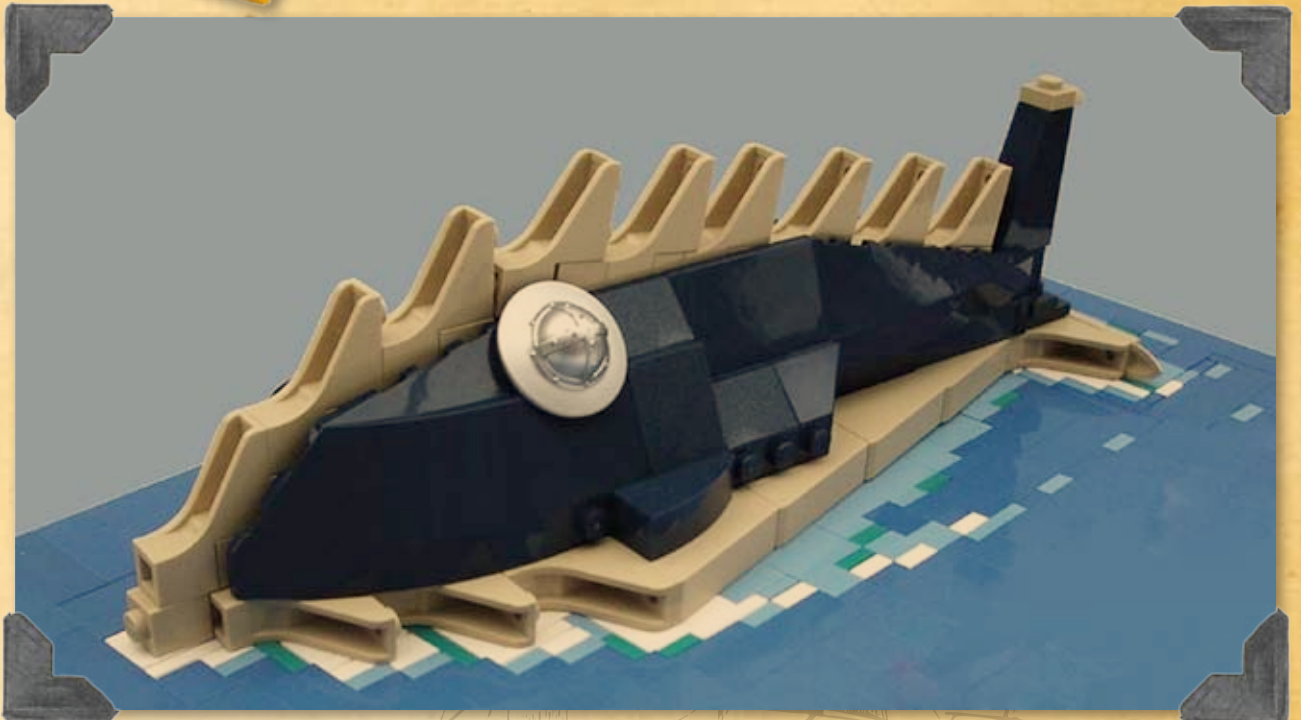
Ever since these plans and photographs came to their attention, the Lords of the Admiralty have been publicly dismissive of this Prussian vessel. Some have expressed doubts that its gun could ever be safely fired, and others have made rather personal remarks about its commissioner.



In private, however, Their Lordships are concerned that Prussia has made a bold leap forward with this incredibly destructive new weapon.



THE NAUTILUS BY "FORCES UNKNOWN"



Little is known about this elusive vessel, despite its distinctive construction. It is said to have been developed by a mysterious rogue scientist. Rumours tell of a tapestry-laden Baroque interior with Turkish baths, a pipe organ, and a smoking room! The secretive Captain apparently pursues a vendetta against the warring nations of the surface world.

UNDERSEA STEAM EXPLORERS BY TYLER CLITES



Professor Clites is either
the most talented nautical
engineer of our time or a
complete madman.
Lt. Penfold



Many of Neptune's treasures remain a mystery, and what little we do know comes from the highly secretive Professor T. Clites. In his pursuit of the legendary sunken Knights Templar treasure ship, Prof. Clites has produced some of the most jaw-dropping photos of the fathomless abyss ever seen. Many thought this mythical galleon impossible to find, much less investigate, yet Prof. Clites laughed at the treacherous undersea pressures found at such depths and created a submarine, the HMS Perception, capable of plunging to the seafloor to visit the wreck.



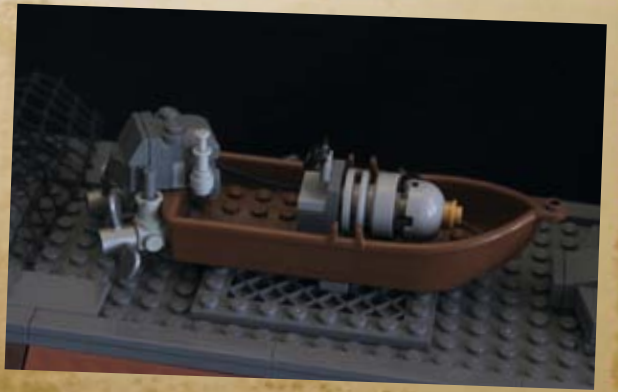
YEOMAN GUSS DE BLÖD'S

MYSTERY SHIP



Photographs of this mysterious Underwater Fishy Object (UFO), taken by Yeoman Guss De Blöd, were initially thought to depict a frisky whale or perhaps a gathering of mackerel. Imagine the surprise when, upon further analysis of the photographs, this phantom vessel was revealed! Yeoman De Blöd first noticed the craft whilst discharging his photographic analysis duties for the Undersea Steam Explorers.





VICTORY

BY ROD GILLIES





HMS *Victory* is the largest and most expensive vessel afloat. Armed with six long-range guns designed to fire the latest nitroglycerine shells, it is capable of inflicting devastating strikes against both naval and shore targets. The *Victory* is also equipped with carbines and anti-aircraft weapons for close-range defence.

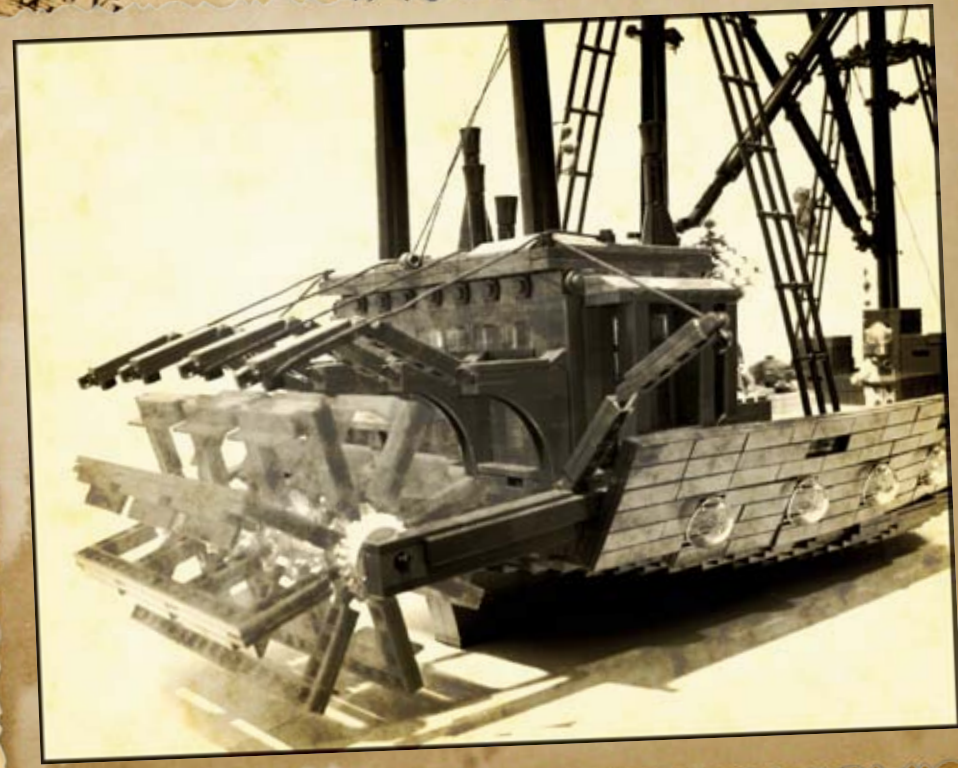
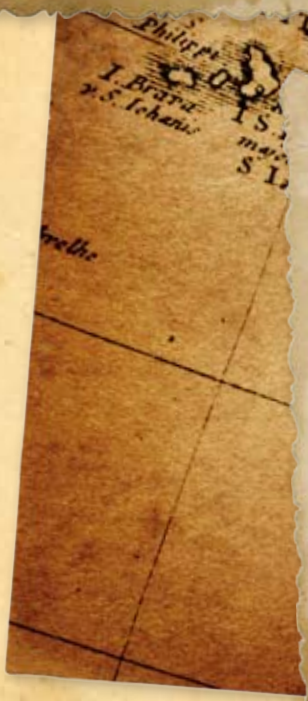
This vessel is home to a squad of the famous *Navy Seal-Divers*. These brave men, equipped with their distinctive diving apparatus made from seal skins, are renowned for their exploits.

FULTON'S REVENGE

BY JORDAN SCHWARTZ



The launch of Fulton's Revenge from the Belfast shipyards brought the vessel alongside the HMS Victory in a well-orchestrated publicity event. Sir Nadroj, the clever shipping magnate, then took to the wheelhouse and guided the newly christened Revenge to the deepwater docks of Southampton, where it was readied for its maiden voyage. Fulton's Revenge, officially the largest paddle-schooner in the world, continues its voyages around the globe, much to the delight of fans both in England and abroad.





HMS NAUTICA BY ROD GILLIES

LENGTH: 63' 4" BEAM: 15' 9"
DISPLACEMENT: 114 TONNES
SPEED: 14 KNOTS SURFACED, 9 SUBMERGED
MAXIMUM DEPTH: 80' CREW: 4-6
ARMAMENT: 2 TORPEDO EXPULSION TUBES
TORPEDO: 6X 12OZ NITROGLYCERINE WARHEAD

POST
CORRESPONDENCE

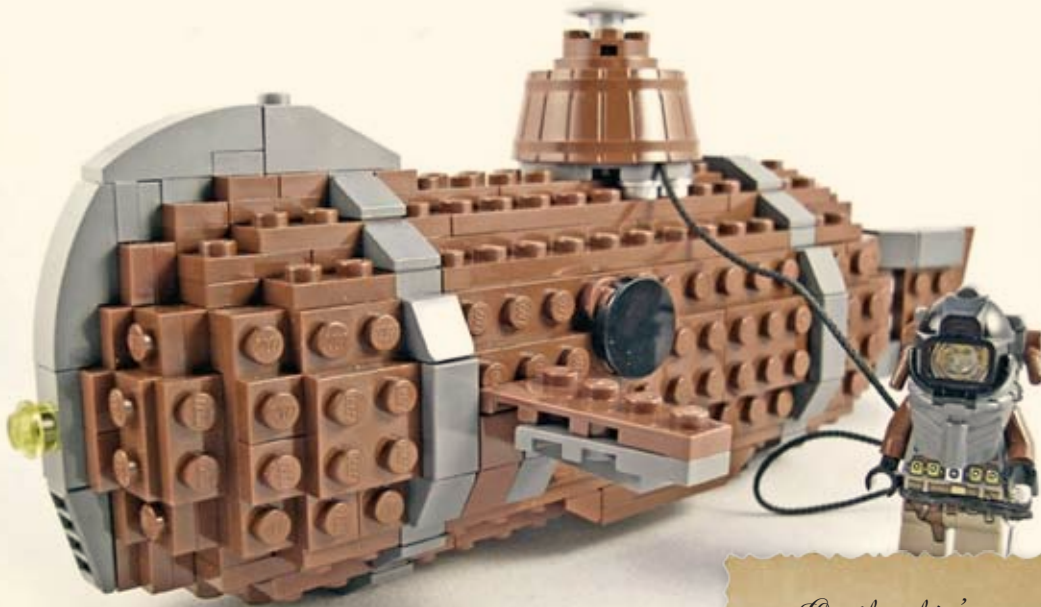


GARD
ADDRESS ONLY



Despite the rapidly growing numbers of submarine craft in other navies, the Lords of the Admiralty were initially sceptical of the promise of these new hybrid vessels. My Navy sources tell me that launches of experimental craft like the Nautica were conducted in the utmost secrecy, as is appropriate for all endeavours of this new branch of the Royal Navy, now known as the "Silent Service."

DR. SCHWEITZER'S SW - PHYSETER I BY RUBEN RAS

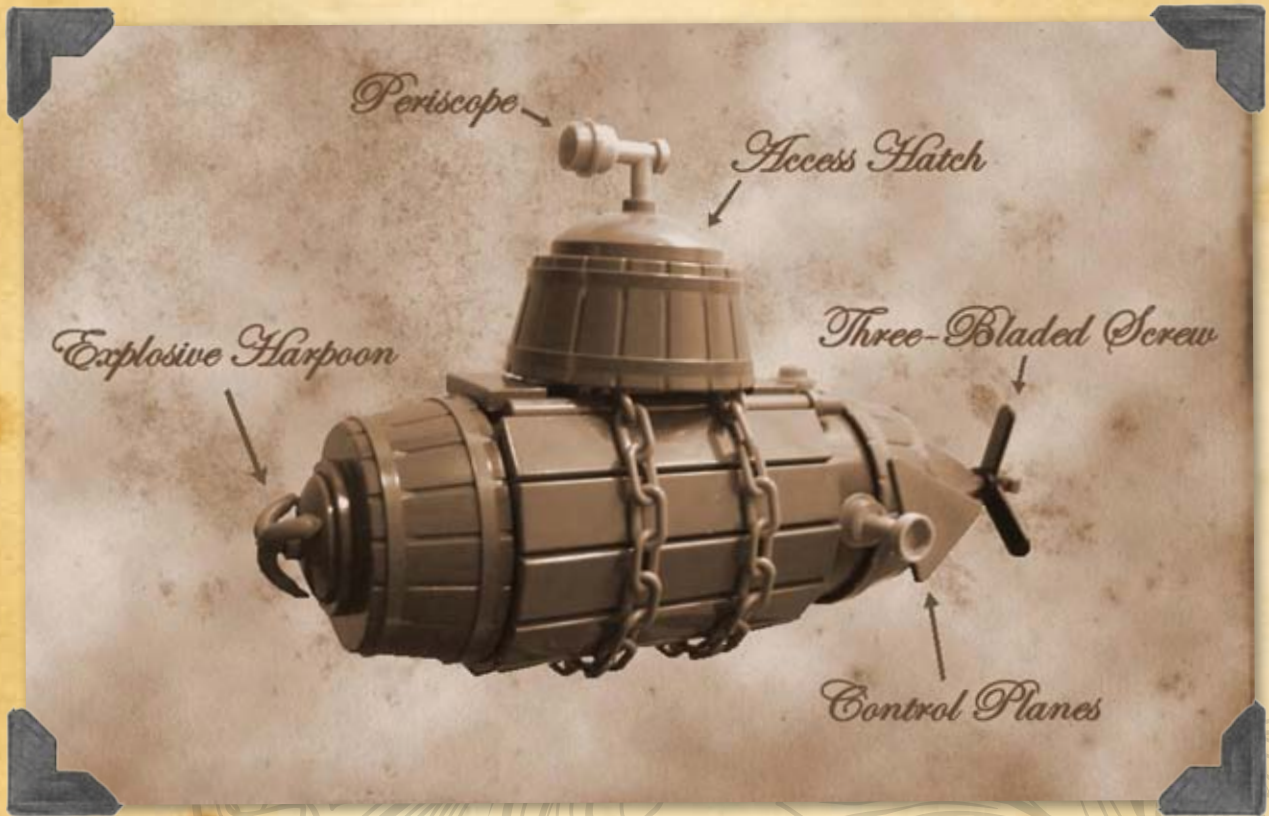


Dr. Schweitzer's Physeter submersible is motivated by a cutting-edge high-pressure, twin-turbine engine from the US Navy. The engine is a vast improvement over the more common steam-turbine motive power currently deployed by most undersea pilots. How the doctor came upon such technology is still a point of contention amongst his peers.

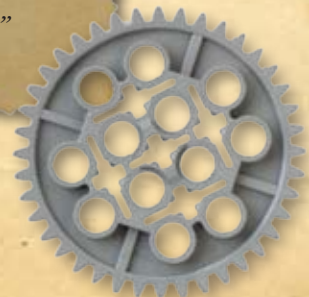
On the ship's recent eastbound journey from the Port of New York toward Glasgow, it was thought that a faulty high-torque screw rod resulted in the loss of a precious brass propeller. The incident resulted in an unscheduled visit back to the Yanks' dry dock, where various stress fractures were discovered in the ship's understructure. Upon further inspection, it was determined that the damage was most likely caused by the impact of a torpedo attack!

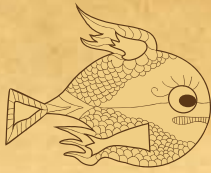
❧ O'NEILL'S MINI SUBMARINE ❧

BY ROD GILLIES

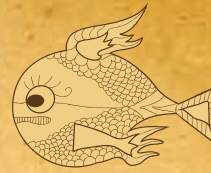


Produced by the O'Neill Company of Belfast, the iconic Mini Submarine is perfectly designed for operations in shallow coastal waters. Only the shortage of potential crew members limits the wide deployment of this submersible for duties throughout the Empire. The Admiralty bemoans "the modern sensibilities which forbid the employ of children."





HMS ATLANTICA BY ROD GILLIES



Working closely with the Royal Society, Commander Taffey Lewis of the Royal Navy has developed the first submersible to cross the Atlantic without recourse to surface passage; the Atlantica has become a potent symbol of our naval supremacy. The ocean's depths have become a second home for this elegant and swift underwater craft and its powerful Voight-Kampff twin electric dynamo engines.

LE CALMAR GÉANT BY V&A STEAMWORKS



Le Calmar Géant was created to defend against the impending threat of underwater troops. The tireless mechanical arms are equipped with sharp cutting blades designed to sever enemy air supply lines (and limbs, I suppose). Nicknamed the "Tentacled Terror," it has yet to be placed into regular service for fear of its devastating and somewhat random method of operation.



This steam-powered submarine takes the form of a giant scorpion fish. The V&A engineers claim that by mimicking nature's preexisting piscine sensibilities, they have uncovered advantages previously hidden to mankind. Oddly, the ship did not begin its career with its current outlandish tropical paint scheme. The original colouring was a rather bland light grey, favoured for its ability to make the ship's ornate outer hull look more decorous in promotional literature.

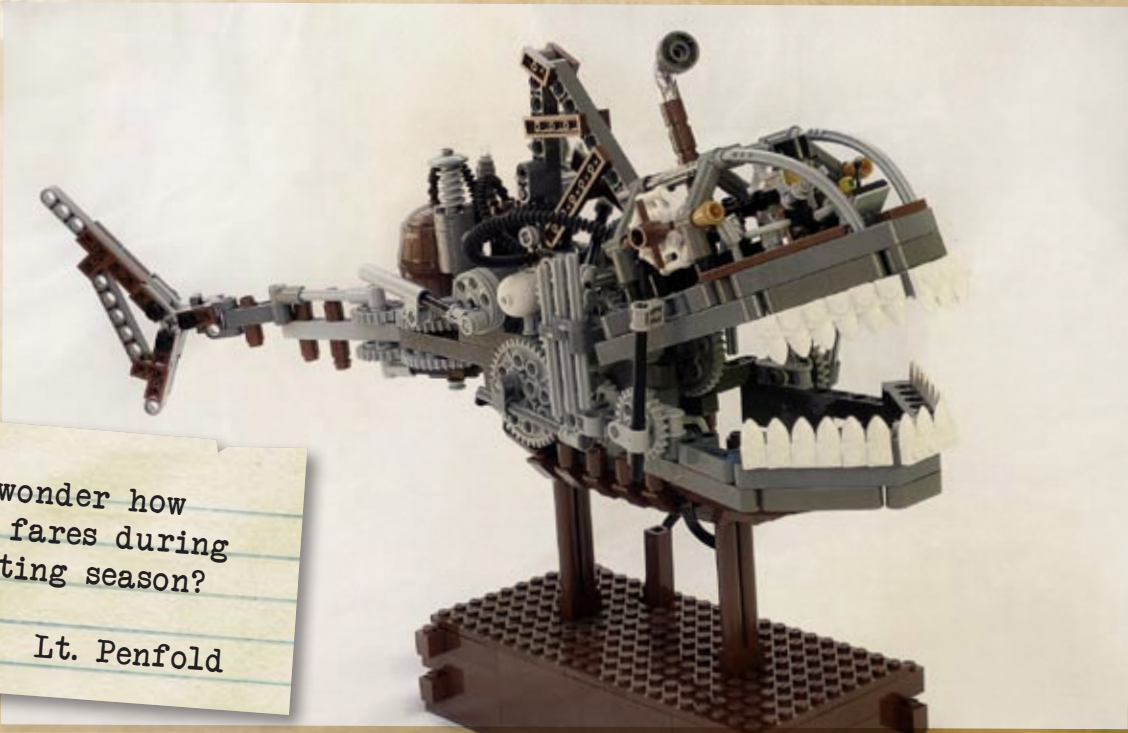
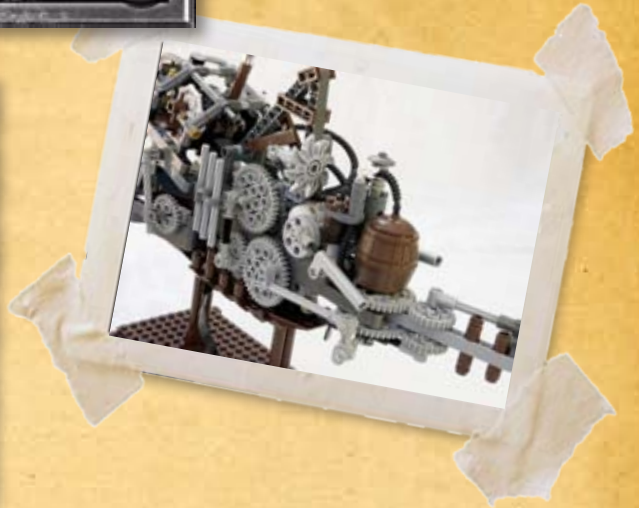
SCORPION SUB BY V&A STEAMWORKS



SHARK SUBMARINE

BY JAMES HENDRY

Often Mother Nature herself is the best source of inspiration for our aquatic engineers. These inspired yet highly treacherous vessels take their cues from the ocean's most dangerous denizens. This submarine's design allows it to scavenge fuel and parts from defeated ships and derelict wrecks and use the spoils to replenish its stores.



I wonder how
it fares during
mating season?

Lt. Penfold

HMS VERNE BY V&A STEAMWORKS



Built with a fishlike appearance, the HMS Verne bears striking aquatic details such as real pectoral dive plane fins, dorsal keel spines, and fish-scale reinforcement ribbing on its outer walls. One of its most dominant features is a forward-facing set of dual observation windows through which the crew can peer into the depths as they pilot this submersible craft on its missions.

OZEANRÄUBER (OCEAN RAIDER) MARK III BY ROD GILLIES



The Kaiser, increasingly frustrated by his country's inability to compete with the Royal Navy, gave his approval to increase the size and sophistication of his fleet of experimental submersible craft. The Ozeanräuber Mark III, pictured here in a rare photograph, was the result.

Although the Mark III could travel farther, faster, and deeper than any previous submersible in the Kaiser's fleet, it was never popular amongst his sailors. Constructed predominantly of wood, it was prone to leaking at even moderate depths and soon earned itself the nickname "das Wasserklosett."



2. November

*Aboard Mr. Ssorg's Zeppelin —
floating above Newcastle-on-Tyne*

Your Majesty,

Having conquered the oceans, we now set our sights on the skies. I have witnessed grand flotillas of Dirigibles, belching smoke and spitting steam as their massive airscrews pulled them through wispy clouds. What a spectacle!

Passengers on today's flying machines travel in first-rate luxury, within well-appointed staterooms. On the gangplank, the aeronautical traveller is greeted with the familiar sights of spars, sheets, and masts, but the alien additions of balloons, nacelles, and colossal airbags signal that the expedition will lead to the heavenly slipstream.

Military applications of the technology are well underway, too, and allow for the swift delivery of devastating, rebellion-crushing power upon the gentle winds.

My globe-trotting visits to these intrepid airship pioneers have shown me that as the fleet grows, the world shrinks...

Your obedient servant,

Sir Herbert





AIRSHIPS
AND
DIRIGIBLES

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*“It is absolutely necessary
to know an operation will be
successful before proceeding.”
—Hugo Eckener*

BROWN WIDOW BY V&A STEAMWORKS



Affectionately called the "Flying Rivet" by the flight crew at V&A Steamworks, the Brown Widow is the latest technological innovation in the fleet. Using the knowledge gained from coal-powered saucer craft, the V&A engineers have built a rattling-good aeroplane!



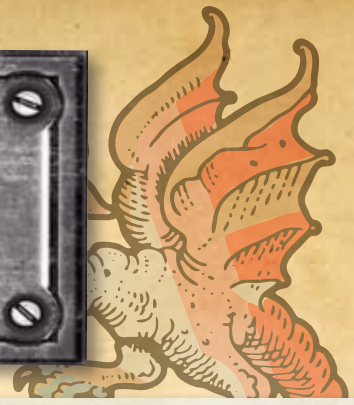
BLACK WIDOW BY V&A STEAMWORKS



This is an alternative design to the classic Brown Widow. Some uppity arachnologist pointed out that the “black” version of the eight-legged beastie is apparently more common. Humpf!

THE GOLDEN EMPRESS

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

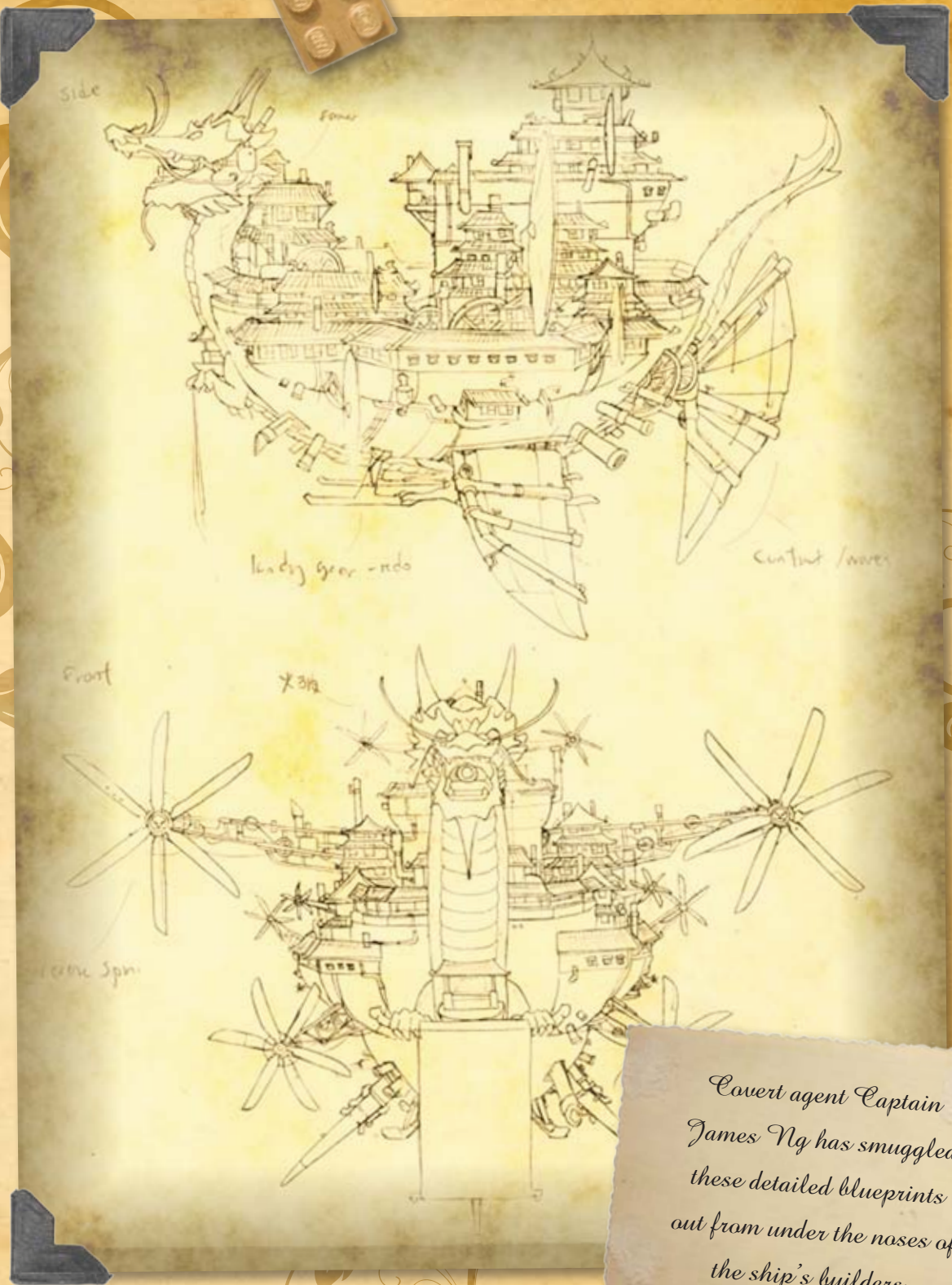


The Golden Empress is so large that its shadow covers small villages entirely. Leaving massive air pollution in its wake, the colossal airship demonstrates the awesome power of the Qing Dynasty.

Though this airship is worrisome, I suggest we maintain an air of tolerant diplomacy for the sake of our interests in the East.

Lt. Penfold





Covert agent Captain James Ng has smuggled these detailed blueprints out from under the noses of the ship's builders.



Some have suggested that placing a giant ball full of explosive gas underfoot is hazardous! To those naysayers, the engineers at V&A Steamworks say, "Poppycock!" It has been rumoured that this ship's design was devised when the good ole boys in the Airworks accidentally placed the blueprints upside down, and voilà — the Sky Scarab was born!

Please be careful when landing on sharp surfaces!

Lt. Penfold

LADY PUFFIN

BY KAHAN DARE

This nightmare of a craft is precariously balanced atop a sizeable helium balloon, and the twin rotors cut dangerously close to the main steering-wheel compartment. Many have argued that the whole craft was a rather idiotic endeavour, in that the crowded design of pipes and tubing barely allows space for the two pilots required for flight.

Further reports indicate that the pilots took off in a rather splendid fashion to, not surprisingly, their demise.

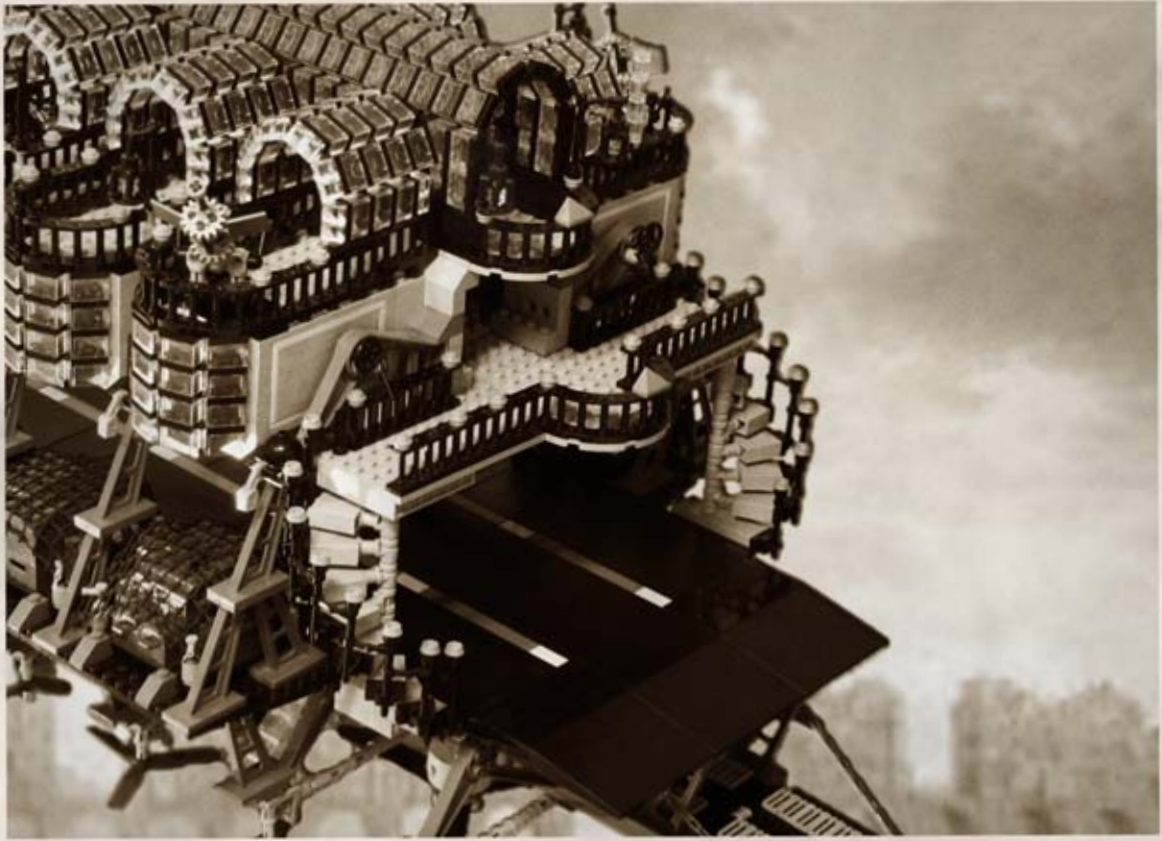
Lt. Penfold

This dangerous experiment in aeronautics was designed by The Daring Kahan. It makes about as much sense as a Zeppelin made of lead!

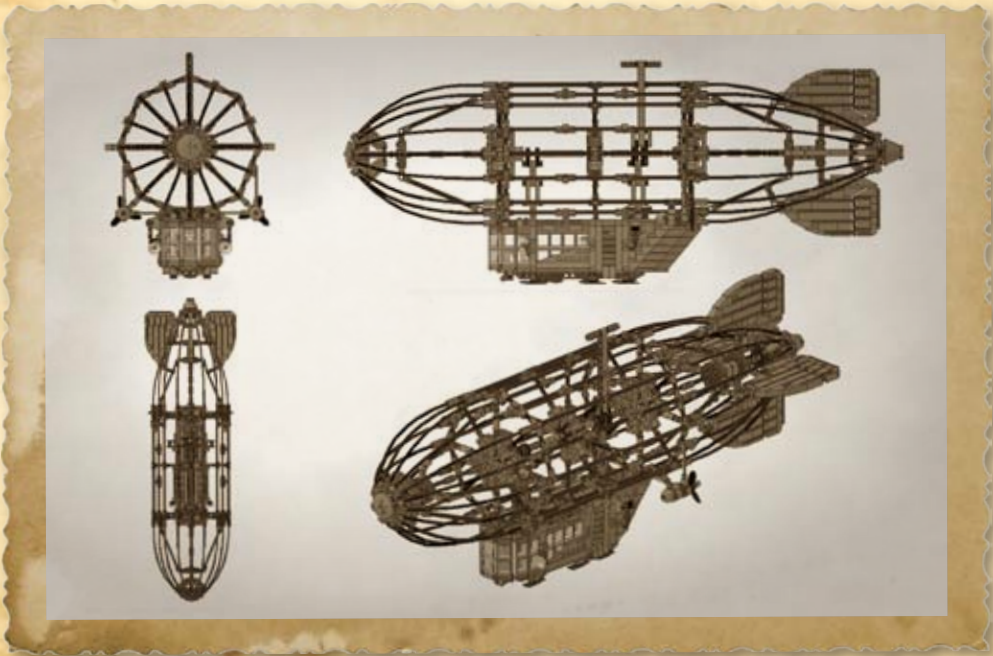


MISTRAL
BY NATHAN PROUDLOVE





Air Marshal Proudlove is the gentleman behind the monumental undertaking known as the Mistral. Longer than a cricket field and as tall as a five-storey building, it is the largest aircraft ever built. Proudlove's worthy place in the pages of history was guaranteed when the hulking masterpiece took to the skies over the English Channel, flying high above the water at a speed in excess of 35 miles per hour. Although the Queen was pleased with the innovative design, the sheer bulk of the ship made it an impractical addition to the growing royal air-fleet. At present, the Mistral is scheduled to visit the shipping yards to be broken down for scrap metal. These are some of the rare photographs of the craft's maiden voyage.



ZEPPELIN BY SSORG

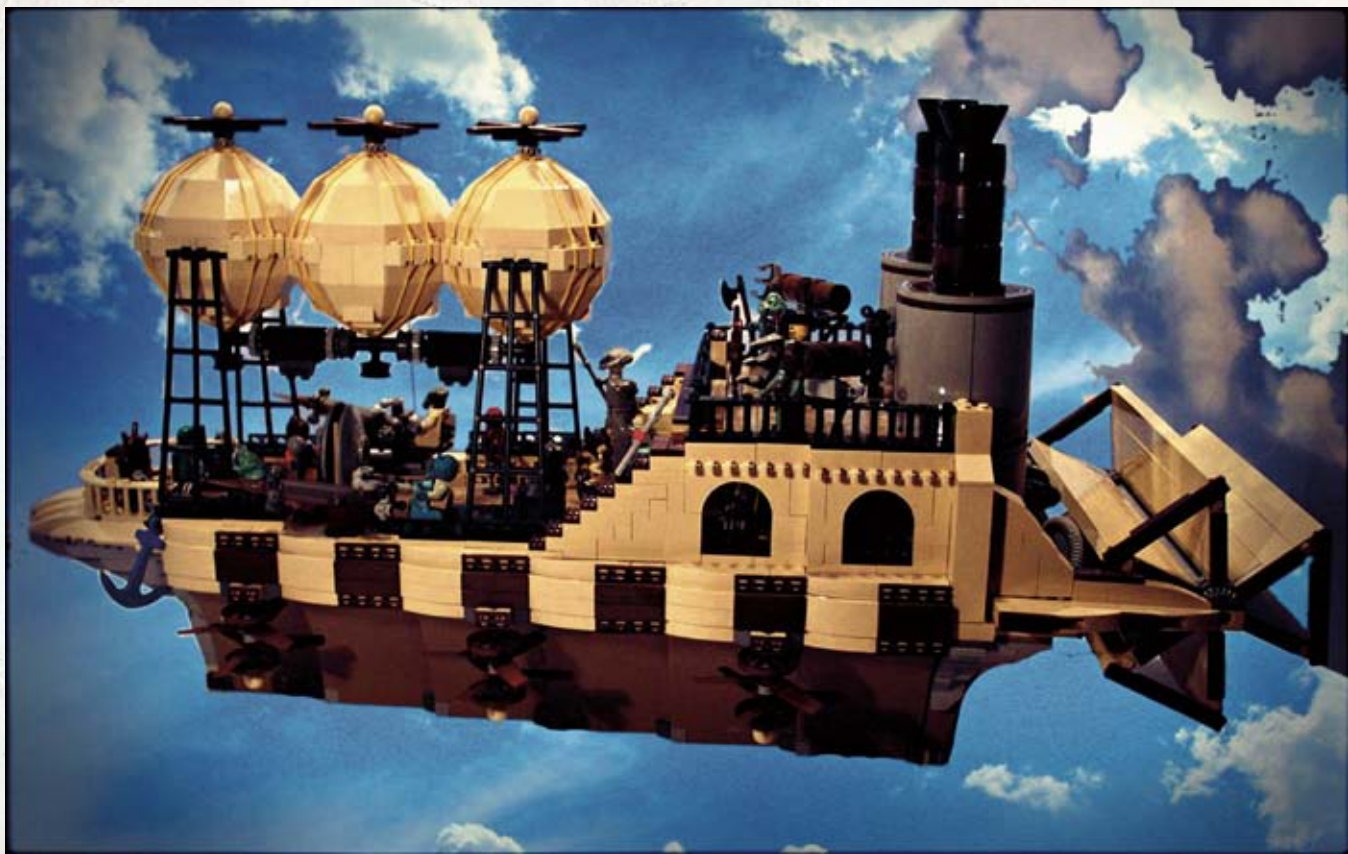
Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin is the father of the Zeppelin Balloon. When he saw the French flying their dirigible prototypes, he thought, "Germany must have this technology!" He embarked upon a years-long design and testing process with his world-famous society for aeronautics, the Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Luftschiffahrt, which I think translates to "Please don't smoke around the Hydrogen..."



J. ABBA'S LUXURY AIR BARGE

BY AMADO C. PINLAC

Sir J. Abba's Air Barge is a stunning sight to behold! On All Hallows' Eve, the crew dresses in fanciful costumes of unknown origin and consumes a meal composed of rare and endangered game from around the world! The spectacle might last for days, as the transport often takes extended trips through South Wales and the Scottish Highlands.





WESTWINDS REGATTA BY TED ANDES

Nothing warms my soul more than the sight of a flotilla of mighty ships floating across the grey skies of my homeland.



Sir J. Abba's appetites for wine, women, and song have become legendary throughout the Empire.

CHECKERED AIRSHIP

BY MIKE PSIAKI



Sir Dennistoun Burney has proposed a plan for a vast air-transportation service that will operate throughout the British Empire, using his highly advertised Checkered Dirigibles. They will be governed by the Air Ministry and are scheduled to convey passengers to India in the greatest of luxury. Since our Helium contract with the American Colonies is still being negotiated, the ships will use the miracle gas, Hydrogen!

FRS SHAKESPEARE

BY BARNEY MAIN

The ardent airmen who crew the Shakespeare work around the clock, week in and week out, to meet their lightning quota. The never-ending need for more and more electricity requires the crew to fill the ship's larder with enough supplies to sustain them on their long journeys through the clouds. Captains must find shipmates with nerves of steel and hearts of gold, for long journeys away from hearth and home have often been the ruin of men. "Lightning fishing" is hazardous work. In fact, Nikola Tesla was once quoted as saying, "I can think of no job more noble—nor more dangerous—than that of the lonely lightning trawler."

This majestic-class Lightning Catcher was created by Sir Barney of Londinium. Why pay for electricity when you can harness it from the very Heavens?



IMPERIAL MEDIUM STEAM AIRSHIP MK. LVI



The craft's pontoons provide stability and prevent the airship from capsizing.

The Imperial Medium Steam Airship is armed with four 16 mm automatic rifles; two 20 mm quadruple-barrelled AA guns; and a 120 mm six-shot, rapid-firing revolving cannon used for ship-to-ship combat. The addition of sails gives this airship an unheard-of travelling range that is limited only by the provisions aboard the ship. Via clever usage of an internal steam boiler, air is compressed for long-term storage and can later be used to power the propellers, giving the airship an impressive burst of speed.

IMPERIAL MEDIUM STEAM GUNNER Mk. IV

BY BEAU DONNAN



Possessing the accuracy of a fighter and the punch of a light bomber, this Gunner-Class flyer has become the backbone of the Royal Flying Corps. Designed to combat tenacious armoured ground forces, the Mk. IV comes armed with twin rapid-firing 20 mm guns and two six-shot 120 mm revolving cannons. Combat testing has also proven the Gunner to be quite effective against the newest class of heavily armoured Zeppelins.



THE KAISER'S IMPERIAL LINE DIRIGIBLES BY CAPTAIN SMOG MANUFACTORY



A panoramic point has been placed at the disposal of tourists wishing to enjoy the beautiful views.

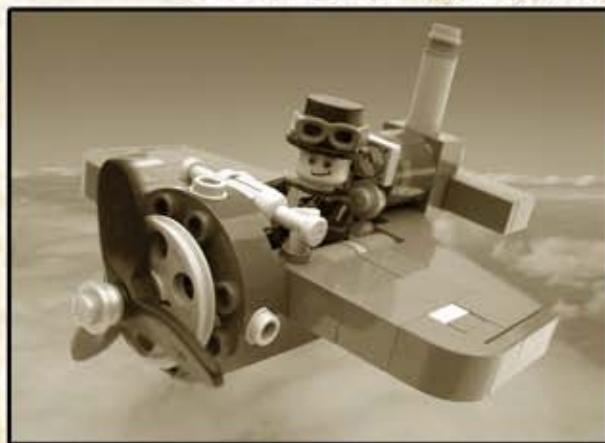
The Kaiser's Imperial Line Dirigibles can take four passengers (plus the pilot) and fly at an admirable speed of 8 knots (without wind).

On the floating stop point, a photophone is used to communicate with technicians on the ground.





2 MUCH CAFFEINE
MOTORWORKS



CERTIFICATE OF AWARD
UNIFORMITY OF GRANULATION

SCOTLAND

The P2 Thunderbolt of the United States Air Cavalry roared into service in 1886. The first aircraft to successfully utilize the so-called "jet" steam turbine, the Thunderbolt was capable of astonishing speed.

United States Air Cavalry

Bringing the Thunder since 1886



P2 THUNDERBOLT

BENTLEY SKY PHANTOM



This photographic image shows Archibald Philip Primrose, the flamboyant Fifth Earl of Rosebery, at the controls of his beloved Bentley Sky Phantom.

TUB FLYER



It all makes sense, doesn't it?

One of the famous "Blue Cats" (Cruz Catalina Flying Boats) of the Floridian Independent Fleet Air Arm. These versatile attack craft were key to the FIF's position as the premier "Naval Force for Hire" in the early 1890s.



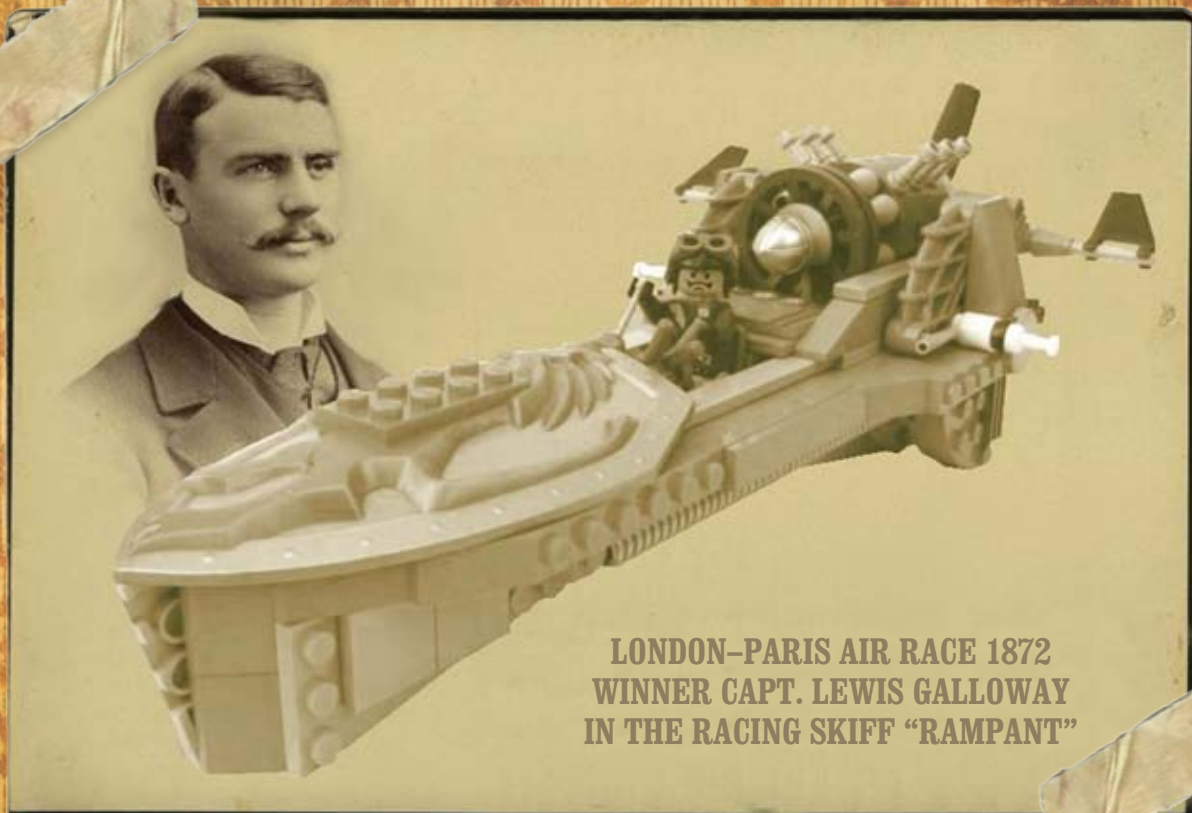
"BLUE CATS" OVER CUBA



SeaBee-23



The single-engined, single-seater SeaBee-23 was specially designed for aerobatic display.



**LONDON-PARIS AIR RACE 1872
WINNER CAPT. LEWIS GALLOWAY
IN THE RACING SKIFF "RAMPANT"**

The London to Paris Air Race has been held annually since 1836 and is the longest-running flying contest in the world. Victory in the London-Paris Race remains one of the most sought-after prizes in aeronautics. Captain Lewis Galloway is, without doubt, the Race's most famous champion. Winner on no fewer than seven occasions, he still holds the record for consecutive wins with five in a row—all of them in his world-famous racing skiff, Rampant. His final victory (in 1872) was awarded posthumously, as his flaming craft plunged across the finish line beneath the Arc de Triomphe only seconds before erupting in an enormous fireball.

THE
KINROSS
P.A.C.
MODEL I



*The Personal Aeronautic
Conveyance, manufactured
by ZMC Motorworks of
Edinburgh, was one of the
vehicles that drove the boom in
private aircraft ownership during
the 1850s. It was a robust craft,
famed for its ease of maintenance
and low running costs.*

VON KRIEGER'S
FLUGMASCHINE



*Von Krieger's Flugmaschine,
once considered the most dangerous
aircraft ever made, is now the
yardstick by which aviation safety
and reliability are measured.*



10. December

*Mecha Kaiju Fight Club
(location not to be spoken of!)*

My Queen,

Mother Nature is the inspiration behind this collection of mechanical marvels. Arrayed before Your Majesty is a clockwork zoo of invertebrates and insects, crustaceans and creatures.

Keen observers have noted that the most efficient designs are inspired by natural systems. A fleet of robotic predators may one day do the work of an army of soldiers.

And yet, the creatures I've discovered are suitable for much more than warfare—I've found pets and familiars of all types, some suitable for espionage and still others mere curiosities.

Yours in service,

Sir Herbert



CLOCKWORK BEASTIES

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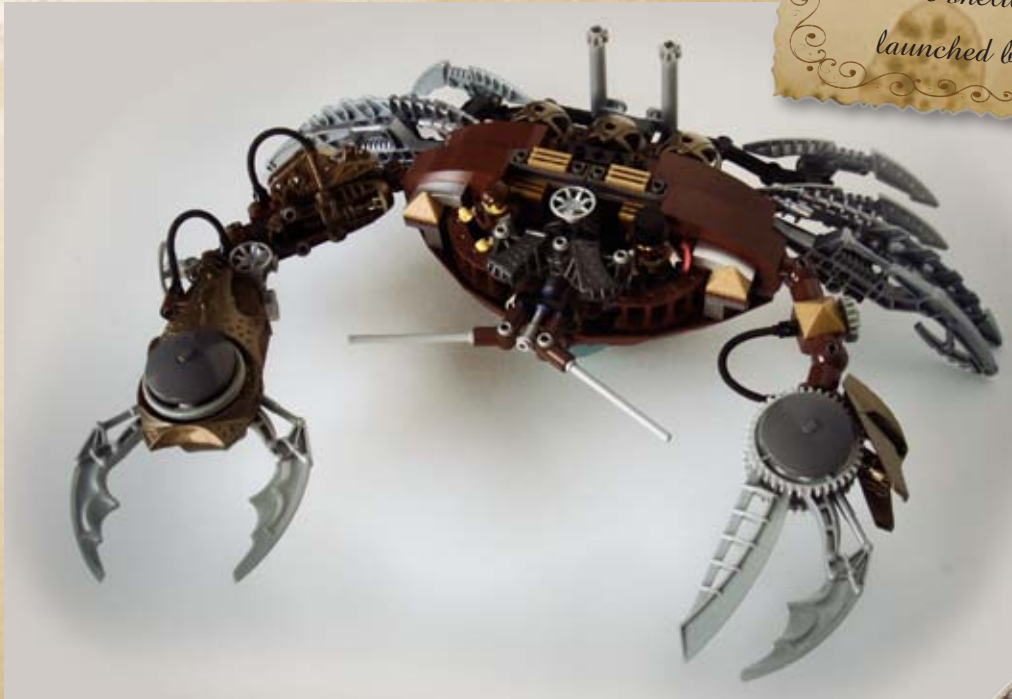
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“[Animals] are destitute of Reason, and... it is Nature which acts in them according to the disposition of their organs: thus it is seen, that a clock composed only of wheels and weights can number the hours and measure time more exactly than we with all our skill.”

—René Descartes

HMS SHELMAN BY V&A STEAMWORKS

This crabby conveyance can travel freely upon sandy shores and beachhead battlefronts. The Shelman's wide, flattened shape allows it to take advantage of holes and crevices in the terrain to take shelter from projectiles launched by enemy forces.

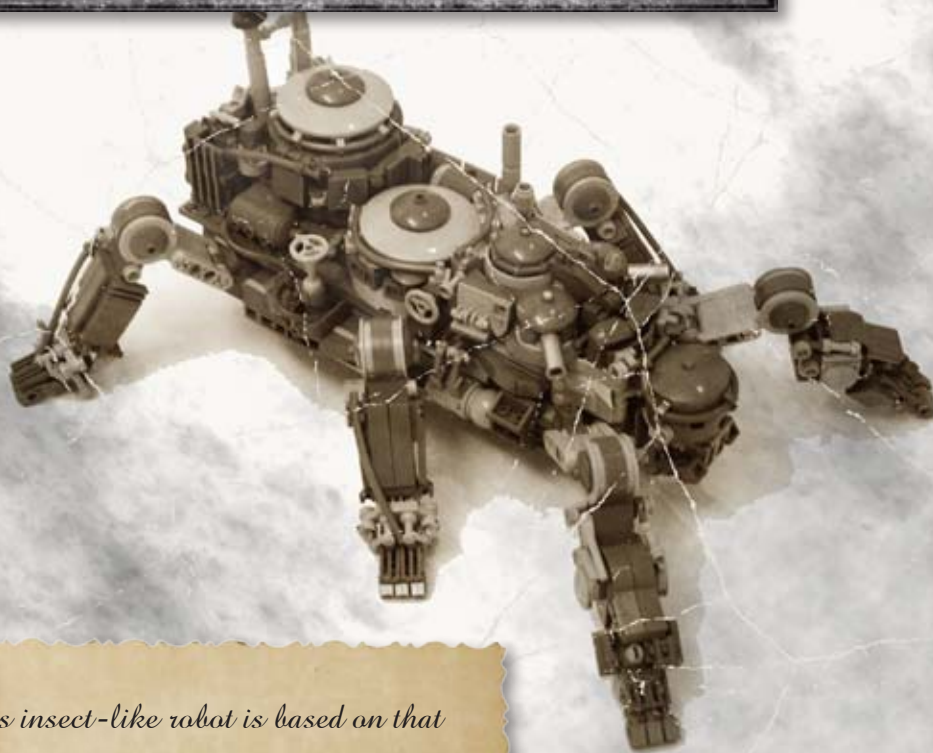


Its eight legs and two large, powerful claws work in conjunction to allow for articulated grasping and fighting. The legs bend in such a way that the machine must scuttle in a sideways manner. Protected by a hard mottled brown exoskeleton, the crab can burrow into the seabed with the top of its shell just visible, to further shield the underside of its body.



THE ROYAL ROACH

BY ZACH CLAPSADLE



This insect-like robot is based on that most tenacious of vermin, the German Cockroach. Although the inspiration for its construction is less than noble, its applications could be quite extraordinary!

By mimicking insect locomotion, this clockwork pest can scurry about with impressive stability and manoeuvrability.

Imagine a swarm of these dropped into an enemy's base camp!

The enemy would
"bug out" indeed!

Lt. Penfold

V&A STEAMWORKS'
CLOCKWORK LIONFISH



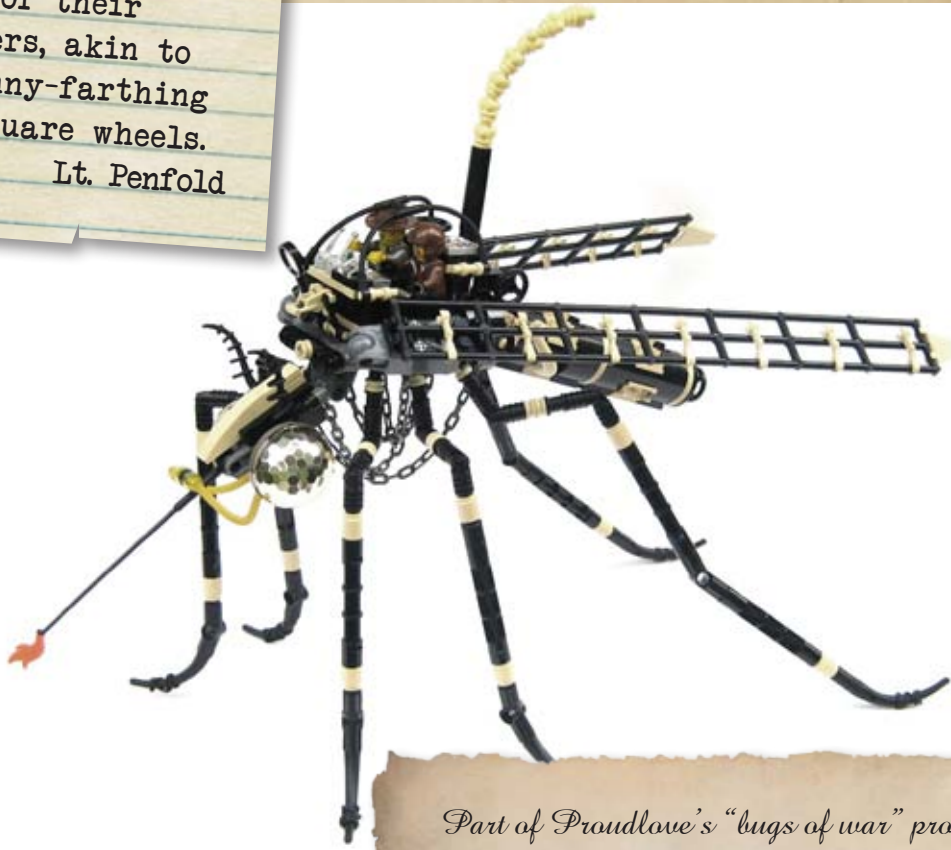
An early success in underwater automation, the Lionfish helped V&A Steamworks win Your Majesty's coveted Medal of Merit in the field of clockwork innovation.

Our pilots have described the vibrations of the Skeeter's wings as one of the most singularly frightening experiences of their flying careers, akin to riding a penny-farthing bike with square wheels.

Lt. Penfold

THE SKEETER

BY NATHAN PROUDLOVE



Part of Proudlove's "bugs of war" program, the Skeeter uses a number of design innovations to imitate this familiar pest's particular mode of flight. Its dueling gearboxes, when operating in harmony, move the Skeeter forward and back and, when working in opposition, turn the bug clockwise or widdershins! Truly smashing! Combined with its cantilevered wings, this flitting ability provides the pilot with an unrivalled manoeuvrability in flight.



WARCLAW

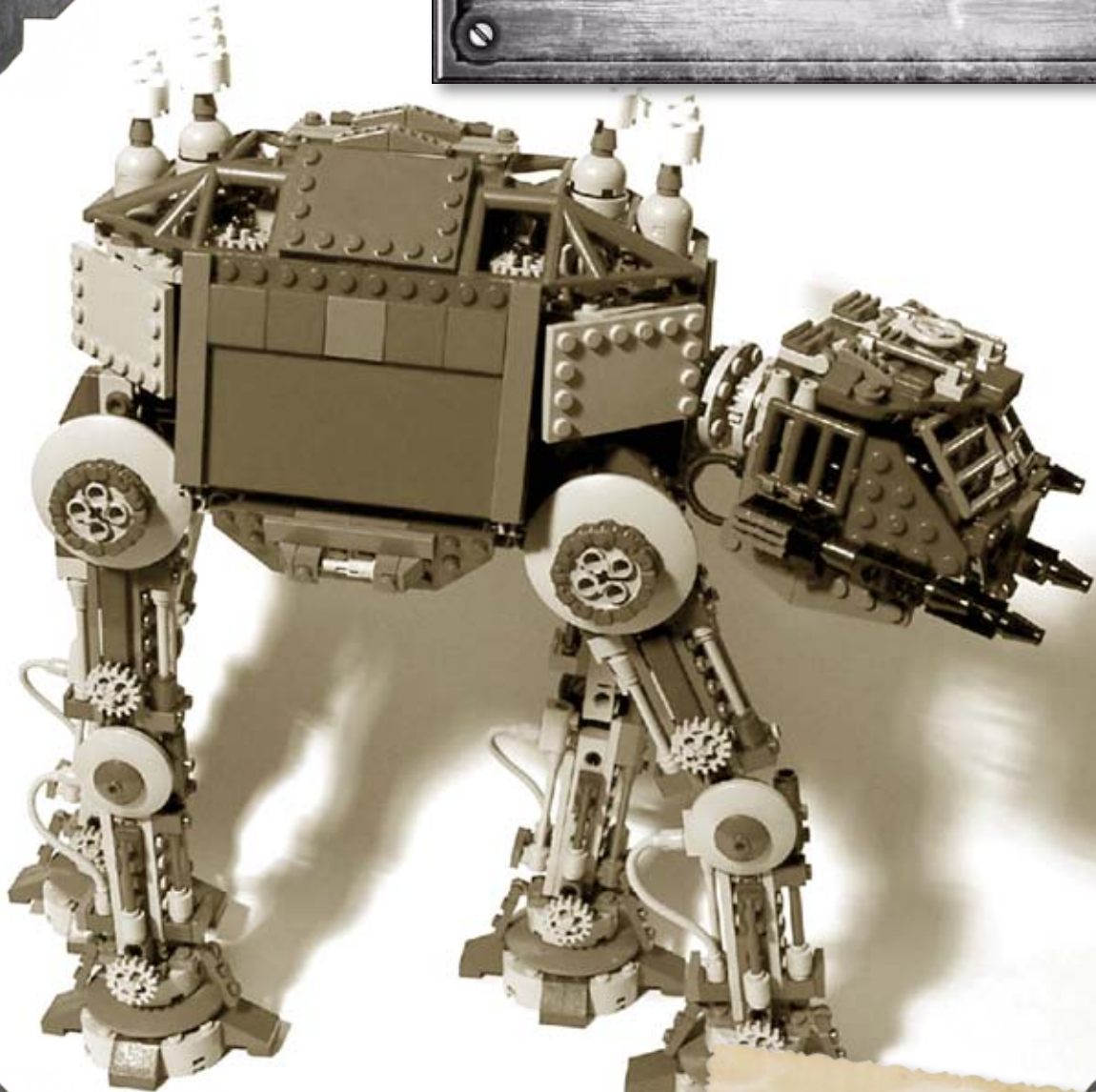
BY LUKAS WINKLER PRINS



To test their mettle, the jousting knights of Buzzard Squadron mount their flying mechanical steeds and collide with one another high above their platformed base at Duanhoe Peak. Air Commander William Pflutzenrueter of the Winged Air Cavalry is the undefeated champion of the jousting arts. As the cavaliers play at war, their steeds' wings furiously flapping, the elevation of a challenger's lance in relation to his opponent's weapon determines the outcome of the noble contest.

THE AMBLER

BY KEVIN RYHAL



The Ambler is constructed with a double-decker passenger section capable of holding a full complement of troops. This quadruped walker can traverse uneven terrain at an impressive 60 kilometres per hour.



M.K.F.C.

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

Tinkerers and Brave Scientists compete in secretive robot battles called "Mecha Kaiju Fight Club!" The roster of the M.K.F.C. is a highly guarded secret, as this type of activity is frowned upon by much of proper society.



Here we see two of M.K.F.C.'s anonymous members.





Mighty animal-themed mechanical dreadnaughts clash to display their impressive and varied arsenals of staggering firepower. Typically, the beasts' control systems are placed in the resilient, armored chest region instead of the head (as heads are often cleaved off during the violent battles).

Rule #1 of Mecha Kaiju
Fight Club: You do
NOT talk about MECHA
KAIJU FIGHT CLUB!
Lt. Penfold

CLOCKWORK WYRM

BY V&A STEAMWORKS

When V&A Steamworks received a commission to build a clockwork horse for a wealthy patron who had grown weary of shovelling "road apples," those impetuous chaps in the design department decided to make something...bigger. In truth, they're too clever by half.



Sir Herbert, this
device looks quite
difficult to wind!
Lt. Penfold

*Wm. Penfold
445 Broadway New York*

CLOCKWORK OWL

BY ANDREW LEE



Built to serve as an inventor's companion, this amazing construct was inspired by the work of the legendary and world-renowned Admiral R. Harryhausen. This mechanical owl is affectionately called "Bubo," and though it is not capable of true flight, it can flap its golden wings about whilst parrotting a riddle via a recording played from deep within its ball-and-socket workings.

By activating a secret button, one can project a star map from the owl's eyes to show the constellations of Perseus, Andromeda, Pegasus, and Cassiopeia.

5. January

La Maison de Champagne – sharing a glass of Sherry

Your Majesty,

Gravity is a troublesome business; it makes apples fall and Ornithopters crash. Yet through liberal application of Cavorite, the experimental weight-negating element gaining popularity within our SPACE! Division, rocks can be transformed into granite balloons.

Unburdened by the embrace of gravity and free to glide about, these mind-boggling floating structures can play the role of fortress or farmhouse, manor or metropolis. Some drift at the mercy of the winds, but the more sophisticated of these sky-sailing mountains can be piloted, thanks to the addition of steam turbine engines and propellers.

These curious floating worlds and their denizens, loosed as they are from terra firma, present an interesting diplomatic challenge. I shall attempt to discover which, if any, earthly nations they might ally themselves with.

The real trouble with these chaps is their lack of permanent mailing addresses. Tracking the location of these properties has proven an imperfect science at best.

On that note, perhaps a stringent requirement for floating lighthouses may be in order?

Your servant,

Sir Herbert

The Postmaster has some grave concerns as to the delivery rates for parcels to these locales!

Lt. Penfold



**FLOATING
ROCKS**



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*“My atom simply failed to fall.
If an atom could be suspended
indefinitely, well — why not an
apple? If an apple, why not a city?”
— Rosalind Lutece*

The Floating House is the home of an elderly widower whose dream is to float his house all the way to the legendary Falls of Paradise in untamed South America. This house uses a Hydrogen balloon to complement the lifting capabilities of a partial Cavorite application.



FLOATING HOUSE BY THÉO BONNER

PEACEFUL ROCK

BY TYLER CLITES



A strange history follows this chunk of floating earth. The town perched upon it was the earliest manufacturing site of the Cavorite element. Sadly, due to some haphazard manufacturing processes, a generous amount of the experimental material leached into the surrounding groundwater and resulted in the entire township taking to the air!



LAST EVACUEE BY BARNEY MAIN



As this accidental foundation has fractured away and the land mass has withered and crumbled, bits of the town have either shot upward into the heavens (never to be seen again) or fallen, often with disastrous results, to the countryside below. Now, only the mayor's office remains. He lives there alone, perhaps intending to "go down with his ship."

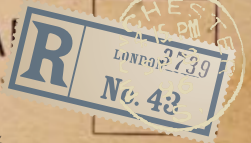
A recent report states that the building pictured was destroyed by a passing tornado and that the mayor remains missing.

Lt. Penfold

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Rumours...a battle-hardened soldier such as myself has little patience for them. Yet...on more than one occasion, it has been suggested that the architect of this lighthouse is not quite right in the belfry. Nicknamed "The Chief," he is, according to some, actually a robot in disguise! Lend no credence to these old wives' tales; I have met the young chap, and he seems fit as a fiddle, except for an odd affliction that occasionally makes his eyes glow red.



LIGHTHOUSE ROCK BY RYAN "CHIEF" WOOD



LOST ROCK BY LAZLO KISSIMON



Baron Clemenza of Coartopia is the ill-tempered and peculiarly dressed captain of this mismatched and bizarre floating rock. When I met the Baron, he spent many hours rambling about his family's vast fortunes, which were lost along with his copper-plating business. My assessment is that His Lordship possesses no real sense of direction and prefers spending his life floating from city to city in a desultory manner as he goes about trading bits of scrap metal and other industrial detritus. I declined to purchase a bottle of his "Cure-All" potion. I have seen Snake Oil before.



Monsieur Duval is a great investor and patron of the arts. Notably, he owns shares in a coal mine in Wallonia and in the New York/Saint-Nazaire Zeppelin Company. When he is not in his mansion in Lille, he likes to relax with his family in his floating country house, a charming manor surrounded by a spotless garden.

Here, life takes its course peacefully: the post arrives by airship, Nestor the butler mows the lawn, and the views are magnifique.



LA MAISON DE
CHAMPAGNE
BY THÉO MORIER



Under the rock lives an artist
who has isolated himself,
looking for inspiration (or
perhaps to escape his creditors).

**POLAR OUTPOST 7:
LIGHTHOUSE & ARCTIC
RESEARCH STATION
BY TED ANDES**

This is one of 27 outposts placed along the "Northwestern Wind Stream," a trade route through the Arctic. The Intercontinental Airship Alliance originally established this network of beacons to provide safer passage through the treacherous archipelago of floating rocks and crosswinds.



The Arctic Explorer's League volunteered to man these remote outposts in exchange for being allowed to conduct their research. The Airship Alliance agreed to this mutually beneficial arrangement, in addition to providing for the necessary delivery of supplies.

TELEGRAPHY ROCK

BY DREW ELLIS

Belonging to Alfonse "E. T." Dover, this telegraphy installation has a less-than-terrestrial feeling about it. Although it bears the mark of Earthly construction, some of the landscaping seems almost otherworldly in size and shape. Strangely, I have not seen any evidence of Hydrogen airbags or of the application of Cavorite on the underside of the foundation to explain its ability to float.



After many years,
Alfonse still hasn't
been able to contact
his home...
Lt. Penfold

12. February

Aboard the Falcon of the Millennium—discussing chivalry

Your Majesty,

While it is true that your great Empire is so vast that the Sun never sets upon it, your loyal subjects have hitherto been confined to the terrestrial limits of Earth.

I am pleased to tell you that these days are no more!

It has long been suggested that Steam technology offers the promise not only of an unlimited supply of hot water for Tea but also of the power for space travel.

To explore this theory, I called upon the esteemed scientist, Nikola Tesla, who shared with me an enlightening discourse regarding the many technologies, hitherto secret, that shall soon power a space-bound armada.

According to Mr. Tesla, recent developments in the sciences will allow our armies access to the very Moon and Stars. Diligent inventors have created such wonders as Aetheric Generators, Magnetic Balloons, Buoyancy Rays, and Propellers for navigating the Luminiferous Aether. Although these strange and novel craft work by mysterious means, I have been assured by none other than Dr. J. W. Keely that the science is as sound as the British Pound.

Scientists have also discovered a curious element called Cavorite, which—when applied correctly—can allow any object to float free from Earth's grasp. These varied technological advancements all hold the promise of propelling flying machines across the Open Seas of Space.

Indeed, with these machines, we can now attack the Martian invaders before they dare set their scaly reptilian feet upon our green and fertile lands!

Your servant,

Sir Herbert

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“Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth.”
—Jules Verne

SPACE!

He jests, my Queen. We would need oxygen pills first. Although surely these, too, cannot be long in coming!

Lt. Penfold

X-RAY FIGHTER

BY SEAN JENSEN



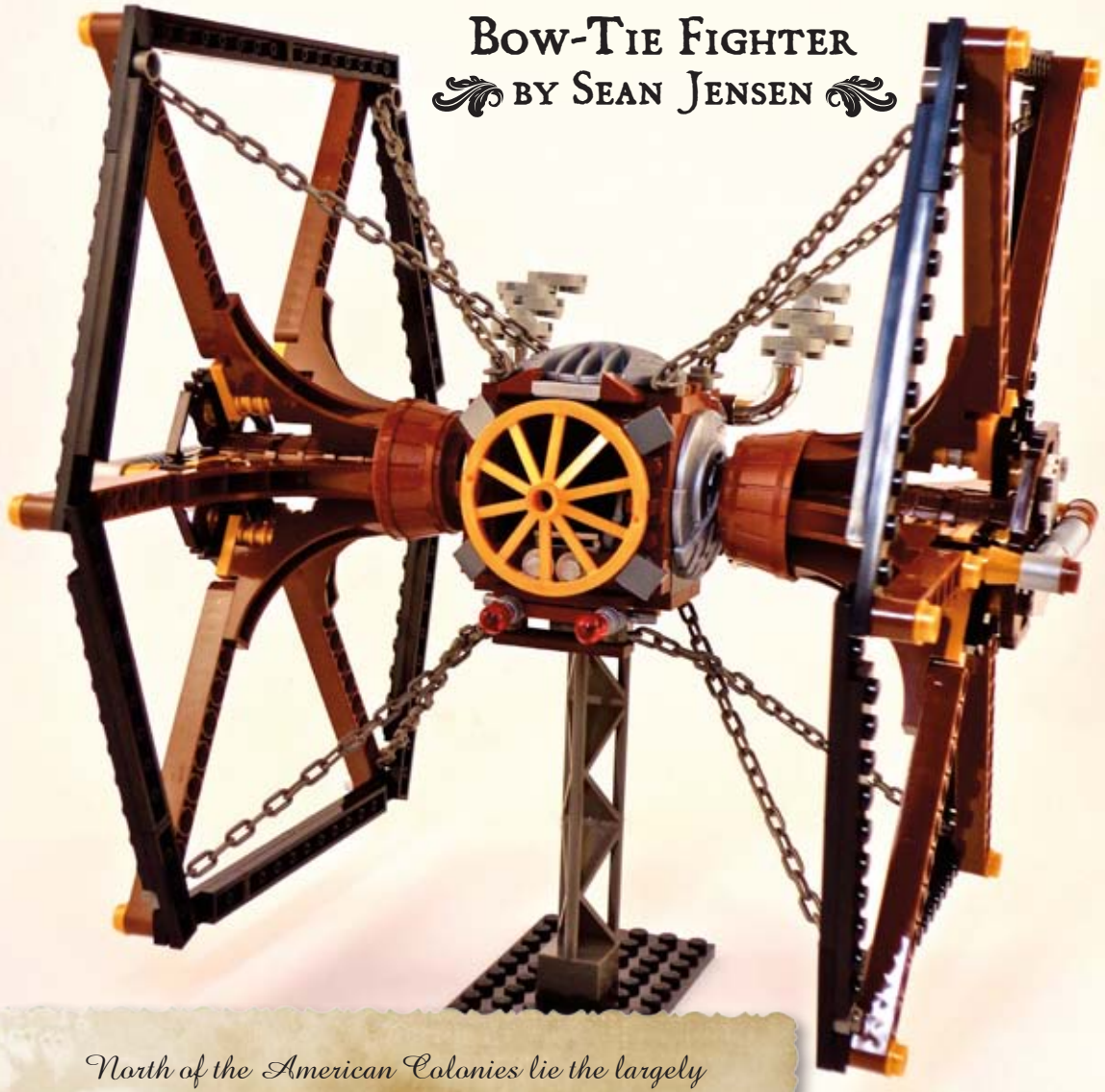
IMPERIAL COACH

BY SIMON LIU



BOW-TIE FIGHTER

BY SEAN JENSEN



North of the American Colonies lie the largely frozen lands of Canada, fertile hunting ground for giant white Ice Bears as well as fruitful territory for space-travel researchers. The tinkerers at the secretive Poutine Laboratories have designed a fleet of ships that use Buoyancy Rays and Magnetic Balloons to voyage beyond Earth's atmosphere. The builders felt it unwise to explain the theory behind these technologies but assured me as to their integrity.



LETTER-WING FIGHTER

BY LARRY LARS

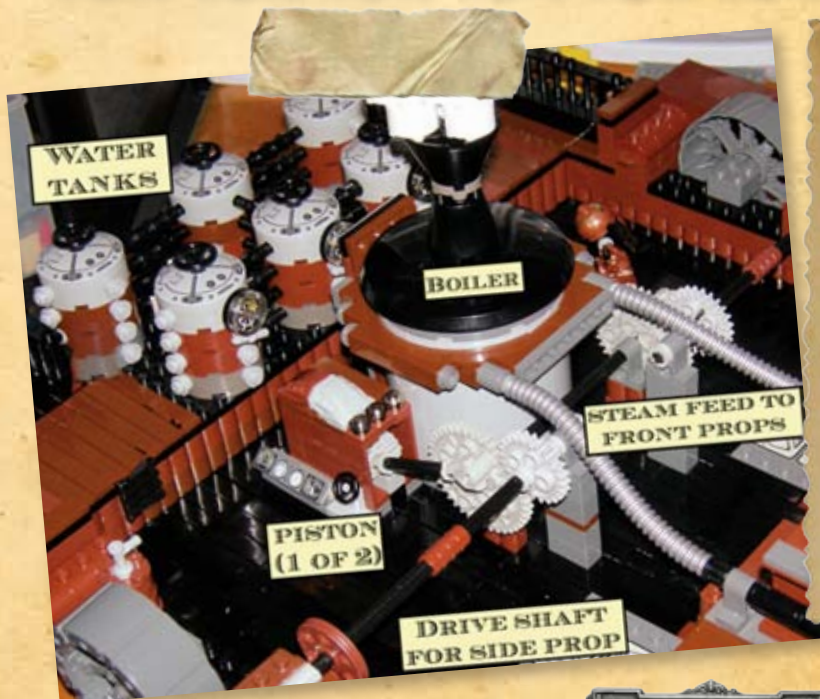


The liberal application of Cavorite to the underside of this ship allows it to ignore the restraints of gravity! In effect, the nature of the Cavorite causes the ship to fall off of the Earth and into Space, as though the normal order of up and down were reversed.

It has been explained to me that earlier test vehicles were not chained to the hangar floor, and hence they were lost to the Heavens upon application of the Cavorite (the Cavorite itself was also lost in this devastating fashion). Clearly, the prospect of space navigation is in its infancy.

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM

BY CHRISTOPHER DOYLE



I met the captain (more than likely a duffer) of the Falcon of the Millennium at a local flash house frequented by pickpockets and bit fakers. The rakish aviator had already been partnered with an unfortunate giant Hirsute acquired from a passing circus sideshow. Though mute, the furry giant growled at me several times during my dealings with the Falcon's captain.

MERLIN MK. I AND DOOMSDAY ROCKET

BY TYLER CLITES



In the Southern swamplands of the American Colonies, the mad visionary Professor T. Clites rivets together space-faring ships that harness the power of the Aetheric Generator. An interior propeller or screw uses the Handwavium Principle to convey the ships, at high speed, through the invisible fluid oceans of Aether that quietly surround us. Although I haven't seen the ships in flight, Dr. Keely has assured me that Prof. Clites's work is up to snuff!



STEAM VIPER
BY V&A STEAMWORKS



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Built with a mind toward defence, this ship would deal exclusively with aggressive robot men from the future. The threatening nature of these clanking, mechanical star-men has yet to be determined, but the large barking cannons mounted on the Steam Viper's awe-inspiring bow seem more than capable of thwarting any treacherous invasion from SPACE.





HMS MOONDREAMS'S VOYAGE TO THE MOON

BY V&A STEAMWORKS



This fanciful design proposes the "shooting" launch of the HMS Moondreams via a titanic cannon! While an imaginative idea, perhaps this is a plan more suitable for a performance at the local theatre than for a test of aeronautic theory. I will have to enquire into the outcome of this venture on a future visit.

Astronomer Garrett P. Serviss has painted these exclusive and probably fanciful illustrations of the HMS Moondreams in flight over the Moon.



Here we see a vision
of the ship's arrival at
some distant port.



Handwritten text in cursive script, likely a signature or dedication, partially obscured by the page's design.

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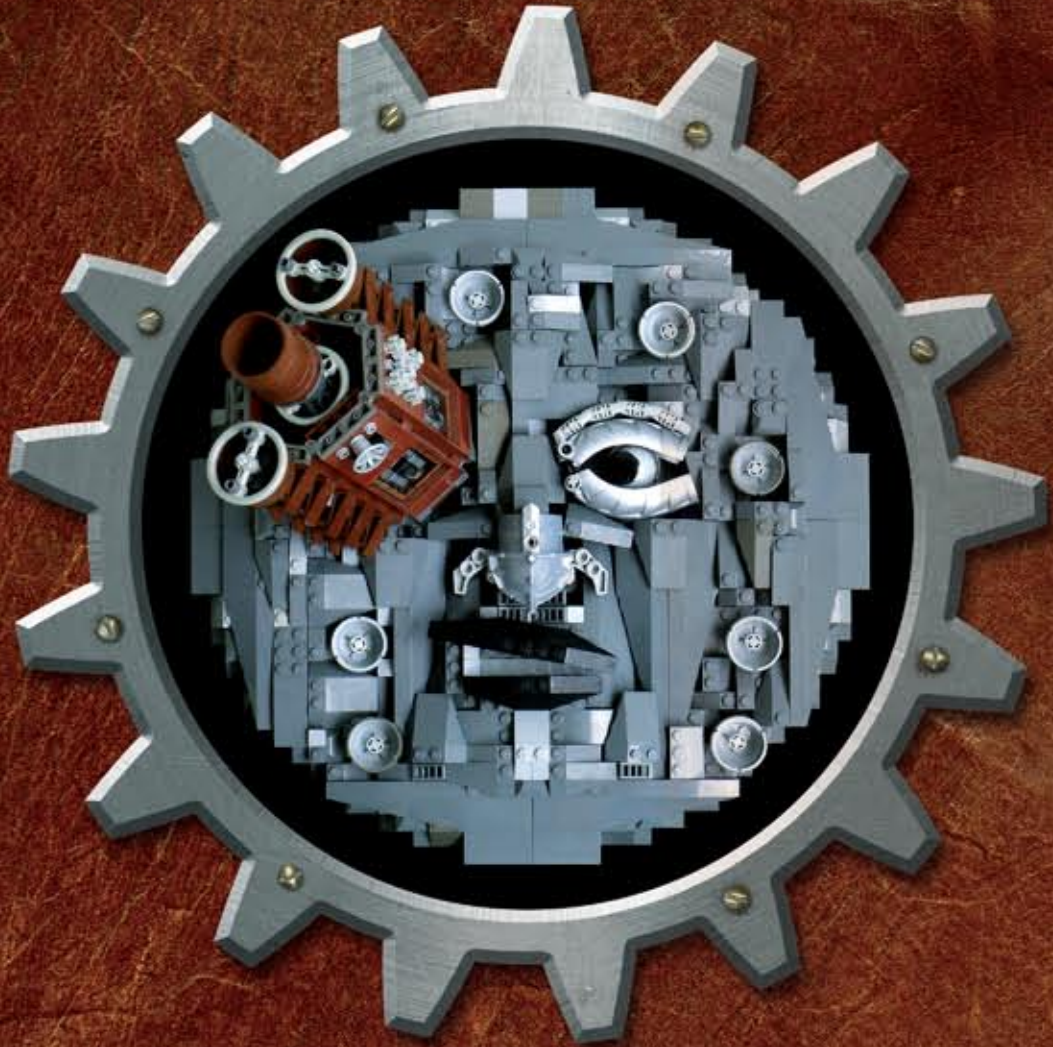
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And we, reposing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability, and judgement of our right trusty and well-beloved Commissioner and Servant, Lord Herbert Jobson, do hereby constitute and appoint him, the said Lord Jobson, to be our first Viceroy and Researcher in and over our said territories, and to administer the survey thereof in our name, and generally to act in our name and on our behalf, subject to such orders and regulations as he shall, from time to time, receive from us through one of our Principal Secretaries of State.

Victoria, R.S.



ISBN: 978-1-59327-528-0



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