[EPUB] Victorian Inventions

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**Victorian Inventions**
Leonard de Vries 1991

**Victorian Inventions**
Leonard de Vries 1971 Keuze uit de jaargangen 1865-1900 van Scientific American, La nature en De Natuur.

**Great Victorian Inventions**
Caroline Rochford 2014-07-03
Who invented the flying machine? Was the Titanic really the first 'unsinkable' ship? How would one use a phonautoscope? Using old Victorian documents, Caroline Rochford takes the reader on a guided tour of hundreds of fascinating nineteenth-century inventions from across the globe, some strange and some remarkably familiar. Think solar power is a modern concept? Think again! Today everyone has a camera, but imagine the excitement of taking a snap of a giraffe hotel! This is a surprising journey, taking the reader on a trip from the clouds to the bottom of the ocean, with stops everywhere in between. Discover the use of whispering machines, crime-fighting streetlamps and over 200 other remarkable Victorian
Inventions That Didn't
Change the World-Julie
Halls 2014-12-09 A
captivating, humorous, and
downright perplexing
selection of nineteenth-
century inventions as revealed
through remarkable—and
hitherto unseen—illustrations
from the British National
Archive Inventions that Didn’t
Change the World is a
fascinating visual tour
through some of the most
bizarre inventions registered
with the British authorities in
the nineteenth century. In an
era when Britain was the
workshop of the world, design
protection (nowadays
patenting) was all the rage,
and the apparently lenient
approval process meant that
all manner of bizarre
curiosities were painstakingly
recorded, in beautiful color
illustrations and well-penned
explanatory text, alongside
the genuinely great inventions
of the period. Irreverent
commentary contextualizes
each submission as well as
taking a humorous view on
how each has stood the test of
time. This book introduces
such gems as a ventilating top
hat; an artificial leech; a
design for an aerial machine
adapted for the arctic regions;
an anti-explosive alarm
whistle; a tennis racket with
ball-picker; and a currant-
cleaning machine. Here is
everything the end user could
possibly require for a problem
he never knew he had.
Organized by area of
application—industry,
clothing, transportation,
medical, health and safety,
the home, and
leisure—Inventions that
Didn’t Change the World
reveals the concerns of a
bygone era giddy with the
possibilities of a newly
industrialized world.

Inventing the 19th
Century-Stephen Van Dulken
2001 Inventing the 19th
Century chronicles a period of
enormous technological
change by examining the
history of the 100 most
important inventions of the
19th century. Using
illustrations of the original
patent drawings from the
British Library's collections,
Stephen van Dulken paints a
vivid picture of the Victorian
Age, highlighting inventions from the ground-breaking - such as aspirin, and the telephone - to the everyday - like denim jeans and tiddlywinks. An entertaining and informative volume for anyone interested in design technology and engineering.

**Victorian Inventions** - 1973

**The Invention of the Modern Dog** - Michael Worboys 2018-10-15
Connecting the emergence and development of certain dog breeds to both scientific understandings of race and blood as well as Britain’s posture in a global empire, The Invention of the Modern Dog demonstrates that studying dog breeding cultures allows historians to better understand the complex social relationships of late-nineteenth-century Britain.

**The Invention of Murder** - Judith Flanders 2013-07-23
"Superb... Flanders's convincing and smart synthesis of the evolution of an official police force, fictional detectives, and real-life cause célèbres will appeal to devotees of true crime and detective fiction alike." - Publishers Weekly, starred review
In this fascinating exploration of murder in nineteenth century England, Judith Flanders examines some of the most gripping cases that captivated the Victorians and gave rise to the first detective fiction Murder in the nineteenth century was rare. But murder as sensation and entertainment became ubiquitous, with cold-blooded killings transformed into novels, broadsides, ballads, opera, and melodrama—even into puppet shows and performing dog-acts. Detective fiction and the new police force developed in parallel, each imitating the other—the founders of Scotland Yard gave rise to Dickens's Inspector Bucket, the first fictional police detective, who in turn influenced Sherlock Holmes and, ultimately, even P.D. James and Patricia Cornwell. In this meticulously researched and engrossing book, Judith Flanders retells the gruesome stories of many...
different types of murder in Great Britain, both famous and obscure: from Greenacre, who transported his dismembered fiancée around town by omnibus, to Burke and Hare’s bodysnatching business in Edinburgh; from the crimes (and myths) of Sweeney Todd and Jack the Ripper, to the tragedy of the murdered Marr family in London’s East End. Through these stories of murder—from the brutal to the pathetic—Flanders builds a rich and multi-faceted portrait of Victorian society in Great Britain. With an irresistible cast of swindlers, forgers, and poisoners, the mad, the bad and the utterly dangerous, The Invention of Murder is both a mesmerizing tale of crime and punishment, and history at its most readable.

**Victorian inventions.**
Compiled in collaboration with Ilonka van Amstel-
Leonard de Vries 1973

**Victorian inventions.**
Compiled in collaboration with Ilonka van Amstel.

(Translations from the Dutch by Barthold Suermondt.).-Leonard de VRIES 1971

**Victorian Inventions**-
Leonard de Vries 1972
Describes the inventions introduced in such areas as transportation, photography, cinematography, and mechanical power during the late-nineteenth century.

**Bikes and Bloomers**-Kat Jungnickel 2018-05-04
An illustrated history of the evolution of British women's cycle wear. The bicycle in Victorian Britain is often celebrated as a vehicle of women's liberation. Less noted is another critical technology with which women forged new and mobile public lives—cycle wear. This illustrated account of women's cycle wear from Goldsmiths Press brings together Victorian engineering and radical feminist invention to supply a missing chapter in the history of feminism. Despite its benefits, cycling was a
material and ideological minefield for women. Conventional fashions were unworkable, with skirts catching in wheels and tangling in pedals. Yet wearing “rational” cycle wear could provoke verbal and sometimes physical abuse from those threatened by newly mobile women. Seeking a solution, pioneering women not only imagined, made, and wore radical new forms of cycle wear but also patented their inventive designs. The most remarkable of these were convertible costumes that enabled wearers to transform ordinary clothing into cycle wear. Drawing on in-depth archival research and inventive practice, Kat Jungnickel brings to life in rich detail the little-known stories of six inventors of the 1890s. Alice Bygrave, a dressmaker of Brixton, registered four patents for a skirt with a dual pulley system built into its seams. Julia Gill, a court dressmaker of Haverstock Hill, patented a skirt that drew material up the waist using a mechanism of rings or eyelets. Mary and Sarah Pease, sisters from York, patented a skirt that could be quickly converted into a fashionable high-collar cape. Henrietta Müller, a women's rights activist of Maidenhead, patented a three-part cycling suit with a concealed system of loops and buttons to elevate the skirt. And Mary Ann Ward, a gentlewoman of Bristol, patented the “Hyde Park Safety Skirt,” which gathered fabric at intervals using a series of side buttons on the skirt. Their unique contributions to cycling's past continue to shape urban life for contemporary mobile women.

**Victorian inventions**
Leonard de Vries 1973

**Patent Inventions---intellectual Property and the Victorian Novel**
Clare Pettitt 2004 Although much has been written about the history of copyright and authorship in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, very little attention has been given to the impact of the development of other kinds of intellectual property on the
ways in which writers viewed their work in this period. This book is the first to suggest that the fierce debates over patent law and the discussion of invention and inventors in popular texts during the nineteenth century informed the parallel debate over the professional status of authors. The book examines the shared rhetoric surrounding the creation of the 'inventor' and the 'author' in the debate of the 1830s, and the challenge of the emerging technologies of mass production to traditional ideas of art and industry is addressed in a chapter on authorship at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Subsequent chapters show how novelists Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, and George Eliot participated in debates over the value and ownership of labour in the 1850s, such as patent reform and the controversy over married women's property. The book shows the ways in which these were reflected in their novels. It also suggests that the publication of those novels, and the celebrity of their authors, had a substantial effect on the subsequent direction of these debates. The final chapter shows that Thomas Hardy's later fiction reflects an important shift in thinking about creativity and ownership towards the end of the century. Patent Inventions argues that Victorian writers used the novel not just to reflect, but also to challenge received notions of intellectual ownership and responsibility. It ends by suggesting that detailed study of the debate over intellectual property in the nineteenth century leads to a better understanding of the complex negotiations over the bounds of selfhood and social responsibility in the period.

The Invention of the Modern Dog - Michael Worboys 2018-10-15
Connecting the emergence and development of certain dog breeds to both scientific understandings of race and blood as well as Britain's posture in a global empire, The Invention of the Modern Dog demonstrates that studying dog breeding cultures allows historians to better understand the
complex social relationships of late-nineteenth-century Britain.

**Victorian Photography, Literature, and the Invention of Modern Memory** - Jennifer Green-Lewis 2020-08-07 Invented during a period of anxiety about the ability of human memory to cope with the demands of expanding knowledge, photography not only changed the way the Victorians saw the world, but also provided them with a new sense of connection with the past and a developing language with which to describe it. Analysing a broad range of texts by inventors, cultural critics, photographers, and novelists, Victorian Photography, Literature, and the Invention of Modern Memory: Already the Past argues that Victorian photography ultimately defined the concept of memory for generations to come—including our own. In addition to being invaluable for scholars working within the emerging field of research at the intersection of photographic and literary studies, this book will also be of interest to students of Victorian and modernist literature, visual culture and intellectual history.

**The Invention of Altruism** - Thomas Dixon 2008-05-08 This volume explores how Victorian philosophers, scientists, clergymen, and novelists debated the meaning of the new term 'altruism'. Including a reappraisal of Charles Darwin's ideas and insights into the rise of popular socialism, this study is highly relevant to contemporary debates about altruism, evolution, religion, and ethics.

**Forgotten Songs and Stories of the Sea** - Caroline Rochford 2016-11-30 Stirring tales of heroism at sea have been ingrained in the annals of maritime history since time immemorial. Christopher Columbuss discovery of the New World, Queen Elizabeth Is defeat of the Spanish Armada, and Horatio Nelsons victory at Trafalgar are just
some of Britain's most memorable naval triumphs. But what about the lesser-known tales from our seafaring past? The Victorian who invented a swimming machine in order to cross the English Channel; the capture of a real-life mermaid; the lost pirate treasure of Alborn; the ghost of a murdered sailor who still haunts the streets of Portsmouth; and the daring explorers who vanished into the blue yonder, leaving behind nothing but a cryptic message in a champagne bottle these are just some of our quirky naval stories that have been chronicled in verse and archived in newspaper clippings, and forgotten with the passage of time. Historian and genealogist Caroline Rochford has compiled 200 traditional songs and stories into this book, which offers an exciting, entertaining and eye-opening glimpse into our long lost maritime past.

**Patent Inventions - Intellectual Property and the Victorian Novel** - Clare Pettitt 2004-03-11 Although much has been written about the history of copyright and authorship in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, very little attention has been given to the impact of the development of other kinds of intellectual property on the ways in which writers viewed their work in this period. This book is the first to suggest that the fierce debates over patent law and the discussion of invention and inventors in popular texts during the nineteenth century informed the parallel debate over the professional status of authors. The book examines the shared rhetoric surrounding the creation of the 'inventor' and the 'author' in the debate of the 1830s, and the challenge of the emerging technologies of mass production to traditional ideas of art and industry is addressed in a chapter on authorship at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Subsequent chapters show how novelists Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, and George Eliot participated in debates over the value and ownership of labour in the 1850s, such as patent reform and the controversy over married women's property. The book shows the ways in
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**The Invention of Murder**
Judith Flanders 2014-07-15
THE NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER “Wonderful... [Flanders] shines in her readings of literary novels containing criminal and detective elements, such as Oliver Twist, Mary Barton and Tess of the D'Urbervilles, but can be sharp and very funny about the vagaries of melodramatic and sensational plotting.” -Wall Street Journal
In this fascinating exploration of murder in the nineteenth century, Judith Flanders examines some of the most gripping cases that captivated the Victorians and gave rise to the first detective fiction. Murder in Britain in the nineteenth century was rare. But murder as sensation and entertainment became ubiquitous, transformed into novels, into broadsides and ballads, into theatre and melodrama and opera—even into puppet shows and performing dog-acts. Detective fiction and communications and transportation that profoundly influenced life in the twentieth century.

**Inventing the 19th Century**
Stephen van Dulken 2001
Illustrated with drawings from the British Library’s extensive collection, this fascinating window into Victorian Age highlights one hundred innovations in communications and transportation that profoundly influenced life in the twentieth century.
England's new police force developed in parallel, each imitating the other—the pioneers of Scotland Yard gave rise to Dickens's Inspector Bucket, the first fictional police detective, who in turn influenced Sherlock Holmes and, ultimately, even P.D. James and Patricia Cornwell. In this fascinating book, Judith Flanders retells the gruesome stories of many different types of murder—both famous and obscure—from the crimes (and myths) of Sweeney Todd and Jack the Ripper to the tragedies of the murdered Marr family in London's East End; Burke and Hare and their bodysnatching business in Edinburgh; and Greenacre, who transported his dismembered fiancée around town by omnibus. With an irresistible cast of swindlers, forgers, and poisoners, the mad, the bad and the dangerous to know, The Invention of Murder is both a gripping tale of crime and punishment, and history at its most readable.

**Victorian Technology**
Herbert L. Sussman 2009

An enlightening history of 19th-century technology, focusing on the connections between invention and cultural values. * A chronology marking dates of important inventions and innovations, the passage of laws relating to finance and working conditions, workers' organizations, and transformations in warfare. * Detailed drawings and photographs of inventions and structures, such as the locomotive, steam engine, iron bridges and railways stations, the Crystal Palace, and the Victorian computer

**The Real World of Victorian Steampunk**
Simon Webb 2019-02-28

In the last few decades, steampunk has blossomed from being a rather obscure and little-known subgenre of science fiction into a striking and distinctive style of fashion, art, design and even music. It is in the written word however that steampunk has its roots and in this book Simon Webb explores and examines the real inventions which underpin the fantasy. In doing so, he reveals a world unknown to most.
people today. The Real World of Victorian Steampunk shows the Victorian era to have been a surprising place; one of steam-powered airplanes, fax machines linking Moscow and St Petersburg, steam cars traveling at over 100 mph, electric taxis and wireless telephones. It is, in short, the nineteenth century as you have never before seen it; a steampunk extravaganza of anachronistic technology and unfamiliar gadgets. Imagine Europe spanned by a mechanical internet; a telecommunication system of clattering semaphore towers capable of transmitting information across the continent in a matter of minutes. Consider too, the fact that a steam plane the size of a modern airliner took off in England in 1894. Drawing entirely on contemporary sources, we see how little-known developments in technology have been used as the basis for so many steampunk narratives. From seminal novels such as The Difference Engine, through to the steampunk fantasy of Terry Pratchett’s later works, this book shows that steampunk is at least as much solid fact as it is whimsical fiction.

**Victorian Britain**-John Sampson 1992

**The Ingenious Victorians**-John Wade 2016-09-30 We all know that some of the greatest inventions came from the Victorian age, the successors of which are still with us today. But this book is not entirely about those. Its more about some of the weird and wonderful inventions, ideas and projects some successful, others less so that have largely been forgotten. Where well-known inventions or design concepts are included, it is from a perspective not previously appreciated, with details of the ingenious technology and thinking that led to their introduction and success. Here you can read how Victorian innovators were responsible for: the worlds largest glass structure; an electric railway with lines under the sea and a carriage on stilts 20 feet above the waves; a monster globe that visitors could enter to see the
worlds land masses, seas, mountains and valleys modelled on the interior; cameras disguised as bowler hats and many other everyday objects; the London Underground as a steam railway; safety coffins designed to prevent premature burial; unusual medical uses for electricity; the first traffic lights, which exploded a month after their erection in Westminster; and the birth and rapid rise to popularity of the cinema ... as well as many other ingenious inventions.

Mathematics in Victorian Britain-Raymond Flood 2011-09-29 With a foreword by Adam Hart-Davis, this book constitutes perhaps the first general survey of the mathematics of the Victorian period. It charts the institutional development of mathematics as a profession, as well as exploring the numerous innovations made during this time, many of which are still familiar today.

Victorian Material Culture-Richard Menke 2022-01-19 From chatelaines to whale blubber, ice making machines to stained glass, this six-volume collection will be of interest to the scholar, student or general reader alike - anyone who has an urge to learn more about Victorian things. The set brings together a range of primary sources on Victorian material culture and discusses the most significant developments in material history from across the nineteenth century. The collection will demonstrate the significance of objects in the everyday lives of the Victorians and addresses important questions about how we classify and categorise nineteenth-century things. This collection brings together a range of primary sources on Victorian material and culture. This third volume, 'Invention and Technology', will look at a variety of Victorian inventions, both foundational and short-lived.

Victorian Times Quarterly #20-Moira Allen 2019-05-14 Every issue of Victorian Times
Quarterly is a treasure-trove of hand-picked, original Victoriana from British and American magazines of the 1800's. You'll find a wealth of ideas on decorating your home or table in the Victorian style, plus delicious recipes (perfect for hosting your own authentic Victorian tea!) and inspiring craft projects and patterns. Plus, enjoy whimsical stories and poetry, beautiful illustrations, pictorial features and rib-tickling cartoons. Taking you from the royal palace to the humble country cottage, every issue brings you a unique, first-hand look at Victorian life. Victorian Times Quarterly is your ticket to explore -- and enjoy -- the beautiful, elegant, and ever-changing Victorian world.In this issue: An Artist's Look at the Seasons - Training Performing Animals - The Married Woman's Property Act - Etiquette for All Occasions - Pickle Recipes - Fashion Economies - Place Nicknames - Typing and Typists - Children's Sayings - An Amateur Housekeeper - In Prison for Debt - Table Manners - Favourite Dogs - Ancient Corporation Customs - America as a Health Resort - Kitchen Necessities - American Tea Recipes - Life in India - Jobs for Women - Amazing Wedding Cakes - Wedding Folklore - Oddities in the Mail - A Visit to Essex - Midsummer Woods - Hungarian Needlepoint - Summer Beverages - Victorian Inventions... plus household hints, recipes, poetry and more!

The Victorian Statutes - Victoria 1866

The Victorian Times Collection - Vol. II-Moira Allen 2015-07-04 Victorian Times brings you the best of the Victorian world - amusing, inspiring, intriguing and informative articles from actual Victorian magazines! This 6-month print collection offers nearly 150 Victorian articles, including: * Eccentric Victorian inventions * The Queen's pet dogs * Life for the Victorian working woman * Court cookery in ancient times * Chronicles of a Britisher's ranch in California * Beloved author E. Nesbit's school-days * Victorian
Valentines * Victorian Easter Eggs (including the "world's largest Easter Egg") * Month-by-month guide to country customs and folklore * Victorian fashion do's and don'ts * How to be a fashionable city "swell" * The Queen's tobacco-pipe (what was it, really?) * Historic cases of mistaken identity * "Americanisms" - what exactly is a mugwump? * Unusual animals, including an orchestra made up entirely of dogs, and an orangutan that was the toast of San Francisco * Postmen of the Victorian world * The diary of an 18th-century Boston schoolgirl * ... Plus elegant illustrations and engravings, charming poetry, and much, much more!

In a Guardsmans Boots-
Caroline Rochford 2016-06-30
When he was just eight years old, Paddy Rochford enrolled at Dublins Royal Hibernian Military School, where he was taught how to be a soldier with the British Army, like his father. Soon afterwards, in 1922, he and his fellow pupils were evacuated from Ireland, a land torn apart by civil war. Across the sea in England, Paddy joined the Third Battalion of the Coldstream Guards as a drummer boy, with postings to Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, the Bank of England and the Tower of London, where he guarded the Royal Family and Britains treasures. In the 1930s, as thousands of Jewish families fled Nazi Germany, Paddy was sent to Jerusalem, charged with keeping the peace between the local Arabs and the Jewish immigrants. During the Second World War, he was part of the Western Desert Campaign in Egypt, defending British territories. After countless wartime adventures, the young sergeant went on to train the Egyptian Army, where a bond of friendship grew between him and the future president, Colonel Nasser. Learning Nassers plans to oust the British from Egypt, Paddy tried in vain to warn his superiors prior to the bloody revolution of 1952, which signalled the end of British supremacy in the Middle East. Paddy retired from the army soon afterwards, moving his young family to Yorkshire, where he began writing these, his
enthralling memoirs about a young boy who spent a lifetime growing into his boots.

**The Most Magnificent Invention Mansion** - Nick Denchfield 1999

**The Invention of Tradition** - E. J. Hobsbawm 1992-07-31 ‘The most stimulating history book which has come my way this year ...’ History Today

**Steaming into a Victorian Future** - Julie Anne Taddeo 2012-09-20 This collection of essays explores the social and cultural aspects of steampunk, examining the various manifestations of this multi-faceted genre, in order to better understand the steampunk sub-culture and its effect on—and interrelationship with—popular culture and the wider society.

**Victorian Literature and Culture** - Maureen Moran 2006-11-16 This guide to Victorian Literature and Culture provides students with the ideal introduction to literature and its context from 1837-1900, including: - the historical, cultural and intellectual background including politics and economics, popular culture, philosophy - major writers and genres including the Brontes, Dickens, Eliot, Hardy, Trollope, Thackeray, Conan Doyle, Ibsen, Shaw, Hopkins, Rossetti and Tennyson - concise explanations of key terms needed to understand the literature and criticism - key critical approaches - a chronology mapping historical events and literary works and further reading including websites and electronic resources.

**Bloomsbury Curriculum Basics: Teaching Primary History** - Matthew Howorth 2015-09-24 A brand new series for primary teachers that provides a full guide to teaching a primary curriculum area, especially for non-specialists. The content is closely tied to the new...
curriculum, with extracts from the curriculum itself and lesson plans and teaching ideas for every area. The curriculum for History has drastically changed and this book will equip non-specialists to confidently deliver engaging and well-informed lessons. This is a very practical and easy to apply programme for teaching History either in your own classroom, or to implement across the school in the role of a co-ordinator.

**Stanfield Hall**
John Frederick Smith 1888 "The novel traces the fortunes of the Stanfield family from the Middle Ages to the Restoration and combines historical romance (influenced by Scott) with anachronistic treatment of Victorian inventions"--The Victorian novel, edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom (New York, NY: Chelsea House Publishers, 2004), page 54

**Digby Kirkby and the Battle for Constantinople**

Damian P. O'connor
2016-06-06 Welcome to the world of Oscar Wilde, H.G.Welles, P.C.Wren, John Buchan, Saki, Pooter and...Heath Robinson. This is Late Victorian Britain as it might have been, should have been, could have been and was have been (sic). A world where Queen Victoria came out of mourning and married the Maharajah and the laws of physics were gently adjusted so that clockwork, steam and the electric fluid could be pushed to the limits of technology. Here pith helmets and stammering Brigadiers battle with Cossack enemies out to ruin the empire and rule the world, crusty colonels and poetic dreamers cross swords with formidable Baronesses, slippery politicians parley interest into principles across the parliamentary dance floor and bright young things fall in love with dashing young chaps at Henley. The situations in which our heroes find themselves in may seem oddly familiar to anyone interested in Victorian history, largely because much of the inspiration is drawn from actual, genuine archive
materials and the characters involved are based on real politicians, sometimes quoted verbatim - hard as that may be to believe (or not). The subject of this story, the Balkan Crisis of 1876, did actually take place and had things fallen out a little differently the war that followed would actually have happened, only it would have been called the First World War come forty years too early. Our hero is Digby Kirkby, a young Lieutenant off to his first war, and about to be battered by weather, Automatons and Cossacks, jilted by the delightful Letitia in favour of rising politico, Ned Pilkington and eventually pitched into the full scale Battle of Constantinople. Meanwhile, the politics of war are not neglected as the giants of the parliamentary establishment, Prime Minister Duntry, the Earl of Wastbury, The Almighty Turnstone and Mordecai Muttonbury battle it out in contests no less vicious or deadly for using words rather than guns. And through it all looms the battleship figure of Lady Barthorpe, a force of nature in herself, tameable only, it seems, by an ex-Confederate officer in extraordinary circumstance. The action moves between London, Egypt, Bulgaria and Constantinople and takes in Alexandrian brothels, steamy hammams, the Reform Club on Pall Mall, the Topkapi palace and a racy bar in Leicester Square. There are also airship and submersible adventures involving inventions that are only just this side of Heath Robinson and in the case of the Circular Ironclads and piano-wire guided torpedoes, genuine Victorian inventions.

Science's Strangest Inventions-Tom Quinn
2015-06-04 The history of science is littered with mad, bad and delightfully dotty inventions, from the bicycle that relied for its momentum on the rider waggling his head back and forth continually to the Improved Pneumatic Advertising Hat - a bowler that hurled a lit-up billboard into the air at the touch of a button - or the suitcase that turned into a small boat for the nervous ferry passenger. Here is the chance to sample, among
other delights, Professor Ray's Nose Adjusting Machine, Admiral Popov's Circular Warship, The Perfect Sleeping Partner (a Japanese pillow shaped just like a man with an arm fitted at the right angle for a comforting cuddle) and last, but by no means least, Calantarient's Improved Dung Trap for Carriage Horses Employed by Ladies of Fashion and those of a Delicate Constitution.

Inventing the Victorians- Matthew Sweet 2014-06-03
"Suppose that everything we think we know about the Victorians is wrong." So begins Inventing the Victorians by Matthew Sweet, a compact and mind-bending whirlwind tour through the soul of the nineteenth century, and a round debunking of our assumptions about it. The Victorians have been victims of the "enormous condescension of posterity," in the historian E. P. Thompson's phrase. Locked in the drawing room, theirs was an age when, supposedly, existence was stultifying, dank, and over-furnished, and when behavior conformed so rigorously to proprieties that the repressed results put Freud into business. We think we have the Victorians pegged--as self-righteous, imperialist, racist, materialist, hypocritical and, worst of all, earnest. Oh how wrong we are, argues Matthew Sweet in this highly entertaining, provocative, and illuminating look at our great, and great-great, grandparents. One hundred years after Queen Victoria's death, Sweet forces us to think again about her century, entombed in our minds by Dickens, the Elephant Man, Sweeney Todd, and by images of unfettered capitalism and grinding poverty. Sweet believes not only that we're wrong about the Victorians but profoundly indebted to them. In ways we have been slow to acknowledge, their age and our own remain closely intertwined. The Victorians invented the theme park, the shopping mall, the movies, the penny arcade, the roller coaster, the crime novel, and the sensational newspaper story. Sweet also argues that our twenty-first century smugness about how far we have evolved is misplaced.
The Victorians were less racist than we are, less religious, less violent, and less intolerant. Far from being an outcast, Oscar Wilde was a fairly typical Victorian man; the love that dared not speak its name was declared itself fairly openly. In 1868 the first international cricket match was played between an English team and an Australian team composed entirely of aborigines. The Victorians loved sensation, novelty, scandal, weekend getaways, and the latest conveniences (by 1869, there were image-capable telegraphs; in 1873 a store had a machine that dispensed milk to after-hours’ shoppers). Does all this sound familiar? As Sweet proves in this fascinating, eye-opening book, the reflection we find in the mirror of the nineteenth century is our own. We inhabit buildings built by the Victorians; some of us use their sewer system and ride on the railways they built. We dismiss them because they are the age against whom we have defined our own. In brilliant style, Inventing the Victorians shows how much we have been missing.