Bencil Writes

July'14 edition



From the desk of Rajeev Surana

It has been a month full of rains in Mumbai, a time to enjoy the view from your window and if you have the luxury to go and soak in the rains.

I happened to visit the facility of Mercedes Benz in Pune and was impressed with their processes and the one which caught my attention was the provision to get the signature of the person met on the identity card provided with a slot on the plastic card to avoid wastage of paper and most importantly not having to remember to take the signature of the concerned person.

We are also exploring the possibility of working with Indian Customs Department to get our client's trademarks registered which will help in case of pirated goods entering the country.

We are glad to share that our company, Scinnovation has now moved to a new, bigger office and we owe this to our customers, well wishers, advisors, team and our partners!!

Rajeev Surana

Share a story: Point of View

Many people underestimated our distant ancestors. They think that they were cavemen who lived in the dark when they were really exploring the Sciences. We could not have possibly accumulated the knowledge we have today without the achievements and failures of the ancients. They were the ones who made the discoveries, we just rediscovered them. Whether they be ancient weapons, marvellous vessels, magical chariots, or simply roads and bridges how could we have become what we are today without the inventions of the ancients?

As they do to the greatest modern engineers, scientists, explorers, and historians the inventions of the ancients continue to inspire me. The cavemen did live, thrive, and fall in lights of discovery that just may by brighter than ours today.

- **400 BC, THE NUT AND BOLT:** The nut and bolt, two of the most important discoveries in the history of engineering, were not invented at the same time. Their origins are lost in antiquity, but it is certain that the bolt or screw came first. The Greek mathematician, Archytas of Tarentum, probably invented it about 400 BC. The first recorded securing with nuts seem to belong to the middle of the fifteenth century when they were used to secure parts of suits of armor. One of these bolted suits can be seen today in the Tower of London. All kinds of complex nuts and bolts are now commonplace, including explosive bolts fitted to the escape hatches of spacecraft.
- NINTH CENTURY AD, HISTORY OF PRINTING: The oldest known printed book was produced in China about the middle of the ninth century AD. Early books were called "block" books because they were printed from letters carved of wood, in reverse, which were inked and stamped on cloth and paper. These block books first appeared in Europe about AD 1350, but printing as we know it today really began with the invention of movable type by a German named Johann von Gutenberg, born about AD 1400, whose printed Bibles are now worth a fortune. England's first printer was William Caxton of Kent, who learned the printing trade in Germany and returned to England in 1476.
- **1452–1519, LEONARDO DA VINCI:** Leonardo da Vinci has been called the greatest genius who ever lived. He was certainly a most remarkable man with an incredibly inventive and versatile mind. Apart from being a highly talented artist and producing such masterpieces as the Mona Lisa, he had one of the keenest minds in the realms of science and engineering. Drawings and sketches show that he had ideas for submarines, tanks, and other weapons of war, which did not come to fruition until some 400 years after his death. He designed a diving dress, a parachute, and a helicopter and produced superbly accurate anatomical drawings.
- **1797, PARACHUTE DESCENT BY GARNERIN:** In 1785, Blanchard lowered dogs and other animals from a balloon by means of a parachute, and a few years later he made a descent. It was, however, reserved for M. Garnerin in 1797 to make the first descent that attracted public attention. Ascending in a hydrogen balloon to a height of 2,000 feet, he cut himself adrift and descended in perfect safety. He afterwards made other equally successful descents, both in France and London.
- **1801, ELECTRIC LIGHT:** There are two kinds of electric lamps employed—the arc lamp and the filament lamp. Of the two, the arc lamp was invented first by Sir Humphry Davy in 1801. The filament (incandescent) lamp was developed in 1860. In the arc lamp, two carbon rods are placed with their points almost touching. The electric current sparks across the gap, and an arc of glowing vapor is formed, the carbon points becoming white hot and a dazzling light produced. In the filament lamp, the electric current passes through an extremely fine wire, which creates so high a resistance as to become white hot, thus giving out light.

- **1894, LEVASSOR'S MOTOR CAR:** The first important motor car race took place in July 1894, from Paris to Rouen (France), and in 1895 the Automobile Club de France was established. The famous race from Paris to Bordeaux and back, a distance of some 732 miles, originated in 1895 and was won by M. Levassor, who covered the distance in 48 hours and 48 minutes, at an average speed of about 15 miles per hour; the highest speed in the race being about 20 mph.
- **1935, RADAR:** Radar is one of those inventions that came about largely by accident, but which nature had already created in a slightly different form—in this case, the bat's method of avoiding obstacles in the dark. Sir Robert Watson-Watt, a member of a British scientific team studying radio reflections from the upper atmosphere in 1934, noticed a strange echo on his cathode ray tube. It turned out to be from a distant building. Once it was realized that distant objects could be found, located, and "ranged" by radio waves, the idea was used to track enemy aircraft and then to make air and sea navigation much safer.
- **1947, THE TRANSISTOR:** Three Americans are jointly credited with the invention of the transistor— William Shockley, John Bardeen, and Walter Brattain. Their invention was first demonstrated in 1948 at the Bell Telegraph Laboratories in the United States. Transistors have brought about a revolution in radio and electronics and have almost completely replaced the old radio valve because of their remarkable reliability, toughness and incredibly small size. In fact, without the transistor, the computers used in manned spacecraft would have been so heavy that the rockets might never have been able to get off of the ground.
- **1958, HYDROFOIL SHIPS:** The idea of building small vessels that used underwater "wings" to lift the hull above the surface of the water, seems to have originated in France around 1850 when a priest named Ramus demonstrated a model hydrofoil. It failed because he had no way of moving it fast enough through the water. An Italian named Enrico Forlanini built the first successful hydroplane in 1905. It was moderately successful because he used a petrol engine for power. Hydrofoils today offer a simple way to achieve high speed with small vessels without excessive "wash," which can damage riverbanks and wash levees away.

PRESENT, A PEEK INTO THE FUTURE: It's an intriguing thought—what inventions would a "Famous Inventions" picture card series published in AD 2075 include? Or one published in AD 2975? Matter transmitters? Faster-than-light spaceship drives? Tele-transporters? Instant health dust?

Certainly, some inventions of the future will be as far beyond our present understanding as the transistor would have been even to a keen mind like Faraday's. However, the steps along the way will be marked with the useful, everyday products of inventions—like a shaving cream that dissolves whiskers, perhaps, or a cheap, truly pocket-sized color TV set. One thing is certain: The future holds inventions galore—just waiting to be invented.

What's new @ Scinnovation







Images of our new office



1. WIPO National Conference on Audiovisual Works Author's and Performer's Rights Protection |Vilnius| October 9, 2014.

2. Creativity World Forum Belgium |Belgium, Kortrijk| November 5 – 6, 2014.

3. 63rd Council Meeting of APPA (Asian Patent Attorney Association) | Penang, Malaysia |

November 8 – 11, 2014.

🧪 Trivia

During the time of Alexander the Great, inventors designed marvels that were hundreds of years ahead of their time; robots. The first evidence of such creations were found in ancient Greece of a 3ft. Iion figure with a mixture of gears and cranks inside. When scientist recreated it, it was a master piece. The lion walked on it's own across the room then would stand on it's hind legs and the chest would open to reveal a dozen flowers to the person in front of it. Many believe that the original inventor was Archimedes, because he worked with gears and that the artifact was a copy from the first design.



About us



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