Ancient Greek Technology

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A Futuristic Look Through Ancient Lenses: Greece
October 24, 2012

To begin...

Sing, clear-voiced Muses, of Hephaestus famed for inventions. With bright-eyed Athena he taught men glorious gifts throughout the world - men who before used to dwell in caves in the mountains like wild beasts. But now that they have learned the crafts through Hephaestus the famed worker, easily they live a peaceful life in their own houses the whole year round. Be gracious, Hephaestus, and grant me success and prosperity!

-- Homeric Hymns
To begin...

- Through Ancient Lenses...
- The Brilliance of the Greeks
- Who’s Who?
- Steam Engine
- Vending Machine
- Alarm Clocks
- Showers
- Automatic Doors
- Analog Computer

Through Ancient Lenses...
Greek Brilliance

Who’s Who?

HERO of Alexandria
10-70 CE

CTESIBIUS of Alexandria
283-222 BCE

ARCHIMEDES of Syracuse
287-212 BCE
Steam Engine

Hero of Alexandria in the first century CE

Complexity: First use of steam for power

Used as a “temple wonder”

Vending Machine

Hero of Alexandria in the first century CE

Complexity: Pre-electricity vending machines used this same principle

Too much Holy Water
Alarm Clocks

Ctesibius?
Complexity: Uses air pressure to move water from one container to the next
Called “clepsydras” (“water thief”)

Showers

???
Complexity: Not unlike modern shower system
Lead pipes delivered water and removed it
Pergamum
Automatic Door

Hero of Alexandria in the first century CE

Complexity: Utilizes the physical principles of pneumatics

Was it ever really constructed?

Analog Computer

Archimedes of Syracuse

Complexity: Technology that rivals today

Demonstrates an incredible level of understanding of the physical universe
It was a dark and stormy night....
First Investigation
Derek Price

Second Investigation
Second Investigation

Meanings
Ingenuity

Who built it?
Where did it go?

Coda
Thank You
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credits:
Homeric hymn: https://www.evansville.edu/Press relese/BBC_staff2009/2009_06_18_hymns.htm
Hephaestus https://www.macdermotions.com/paths/Myths/Mythslist.htm
Hero, Ctesibius, and Archimedes portraits wikipedia.org
Steam Engine and Vending Machine wikipedia.org
Plato's Alarm Clock model: http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Tech/alarmclock/Platoalarm.htm
Automatic Door gif: https://www.realschule.bayern.de/lehrer/dokumente/untmat/ph/heron/heron_006.htm