

A Timeline of Androids and Automata

February 2019 – Piero Scaruffi - <https://www.scaruffi.com>

(Legends, i.e. imagined automata, are in italic)

Hephaistos' golden female servants, the Kourai Khryseai, in Homer's "Iliad" (8th century BC)

Hephaistos' android Pandora in Hesiod's "Theogony" (7th century BC)

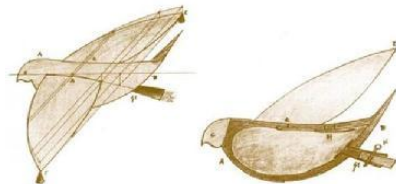


Hephaistos' golden singers Keledones for the the second temple of Apollon at Delphoi, as related by Pindaros (5th century BC)

Talos, a giant killer robot made of bronze (in Greek coin and vase paintings of the 5th century BC)



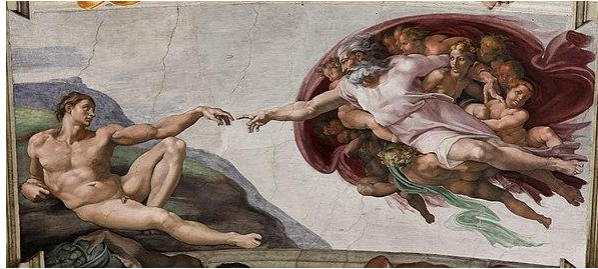
Archytas of Tarentum's Mechanical Bird (350 BC)



The Talmud's Golem



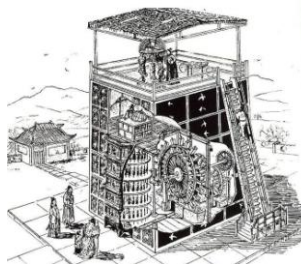
The Bible's Adam



Heron of Alexandria's theatrical automata (1st century AD)



Su Song's astronomical clock (1088)



The robots guarding Buddha's relics in "Lokapannatti" (12th century)



The golem in Eleazar ben Judah's "Sodei Razayya" (12th century)

Ismail Al-Jazari's music ensemble (1206)



Copper knights of "Lancelot du Lac" (13th c)

Giovanni de' Dondi's Astrarium (1364)



Hans Schlottheim's Mechanical Galleon (1585)



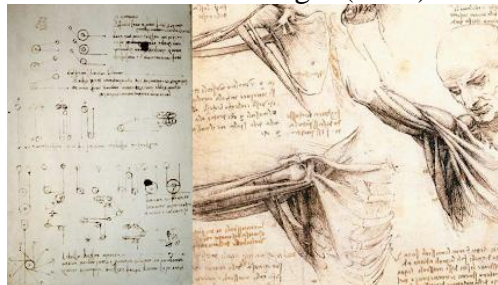
Bertha's groom in Giambattista Basile's tale (1635)

Strasbourg's clock (1350)

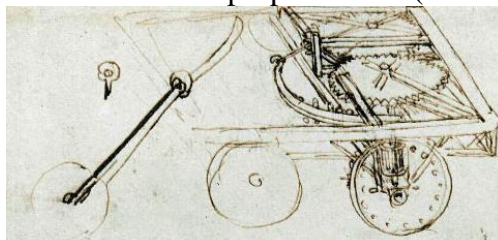


Johannes Muller's flying machines (15th c)

Leonardo DaVinci's knight (1495)



Leonardo da Vinci's self-propelled cart (16th c)



Leonardo da Vinci's lion (16th c)



Hans Bullmann's androids (152#)



Giannello Torriani's automata (155#)



Philipp Immser's clock (1555)



Juanelo Turriano's monk of 1560



Talus, the iron man, in Edmund Spenser's "The Faerie Queene" (1590)

THE FAERIE
QVEENE.

Disposed into twelue books,

Feining
XII. Morall vertues.



LONDON
Printed for William Ponsonbie.
1590.

Legend of Judah Lew ben Bezalel's "Golem" (16th century)

Christiaan Huygens' automata (17th c)

Tommaso Francini 's grottoes at Saint-Germain-en-Laye (17th c)



Jacques de Vaucanson's Duck and Flute Player" (1737)



Lorenz Rosenegge's mechanical theater at Hellbrunn (1725)



Japan's karakuri puppets (Edo period, 1603-1868)



Friedrich von Knauss's writer (1760)

Pierre Jaquet-Droz's dolls (1768-74)



John Joseph Merlin's "Silver Swan" (1773)

Hubert Martinet's musical elephant (1774)

Pierre Jaquet-Doz's Writer, Draughtsman and Musician (178#)



The karakuri in Yorinao "Hanzo" Hosokawa's "Karakuri zui" (1796)



Henri Maillardet's Draughtsman-Writer (1800)

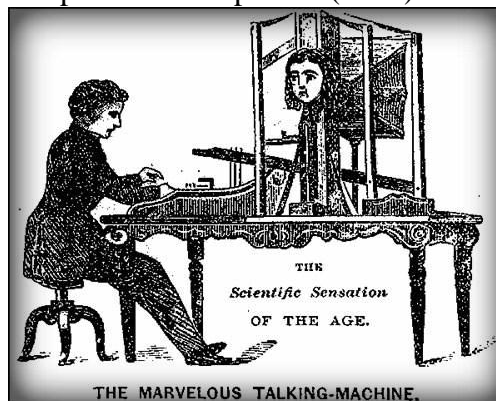


Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" (1818)



The golem in Berthold Auerbach's "Spinoza" (1837)

Joseph Faber's Euphonia (1840)



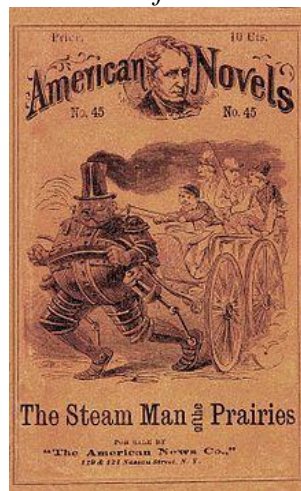
Alexandre Theroude's Mandarin Bird Trainer with Flute (1840s) and Waltzing Couple (1850s)



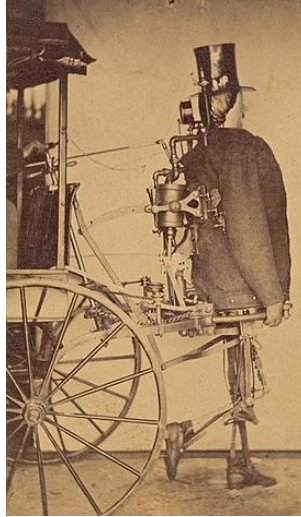
Tanaka Hisashige's Mannendokei/ Ten-thousand Year Clock (1851)



Edward Ellis' "Steam Man of the Prairies" (1867)



Zadoc Dederick's and Isaac Grass' steam-powered Steam Man (1868)



Gustave Vichy's automata (1870s)



Jean Roullet's automata (1870s)



Blaise Bontems' Singing Bird Jardiniere (1880)



Jacques Offenbach's Olympia in "The Tales of Hoffmann" (1881)



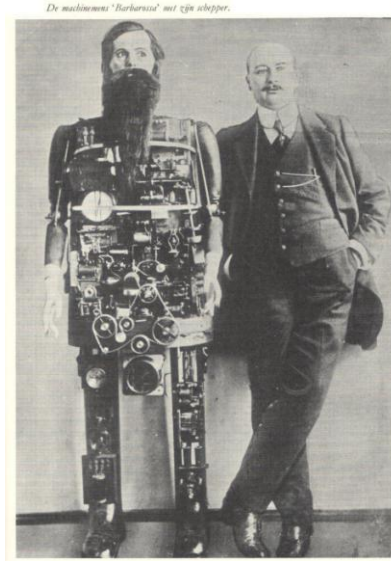
Carlo Collodi's "Pinocchio" (1883)



Frank Baum's tin-man in "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" (1900)



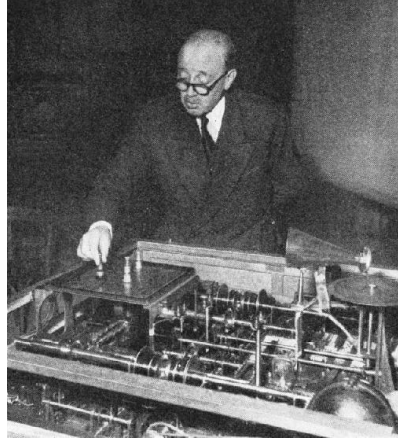
Adolph Whitman's "Occultus" (1909)



Paul Wegener's film "Golem" (1914)



Leonardo Torres y Quevedo's electromechanical chess-player (1914)



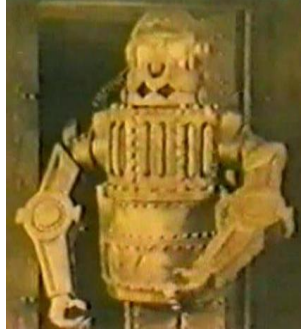
Burton King's and Harry Grossman's Automaton in the serial "The Master Mystery" (1920)



Karel Capek's theatrical play "R.U.R" (which stands for Rossum's Universal Robots) of 1920 introduces the term "robot"



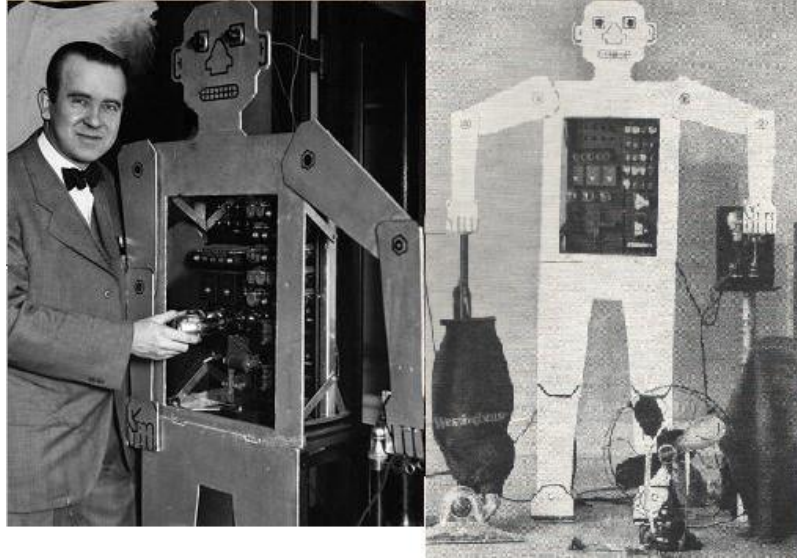
Andre' Deed's "L'Uomo Meccanico/ The Mechanical Man" (1921)



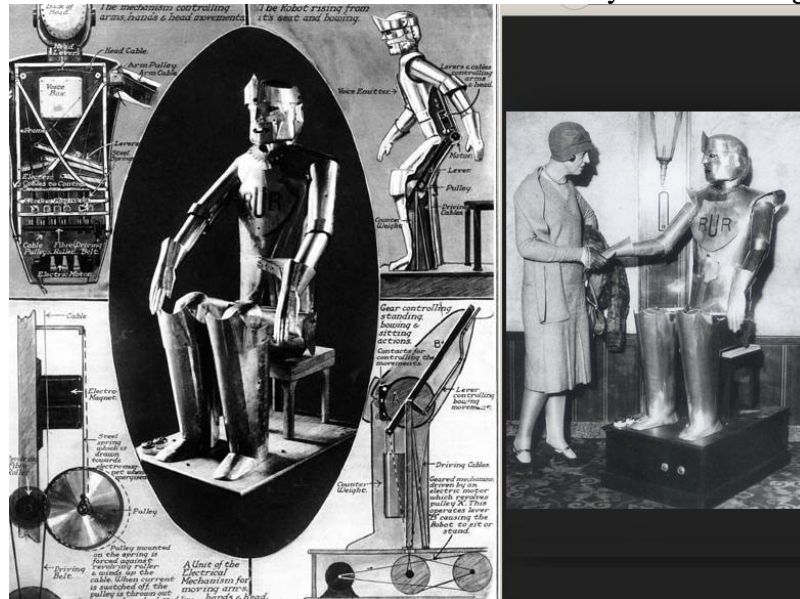
Thea von Harbou's Futura in "Metropolis" (1925)



Roy Wensley's Televox, marketed by Westinghouse (1927)



William Richards' Eric Robot for London's Exhibition of the Society of Model Engineers (1928)



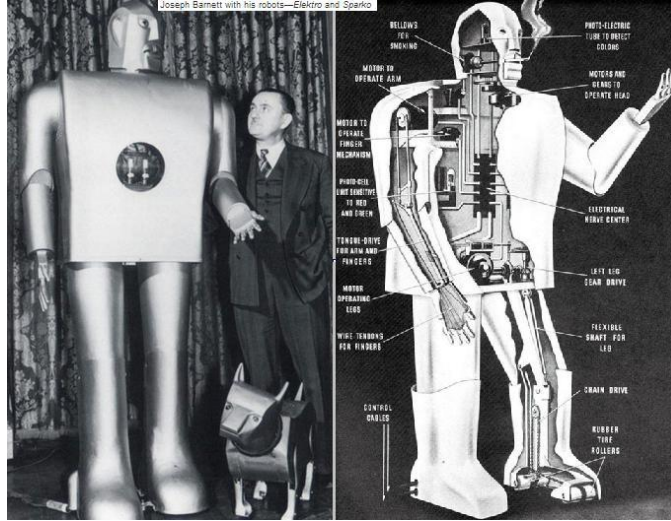
Westinghouse's Katrina Van Televox (1930)

Miss
Katrina Van Televox
 Mechanical Wonder Maiden
 The Westinghouse
\$22,000
 Robot Servant
invites you to her
Housework
Demonstration



Westinghouse's Willie Vocalite (1932)

Joseph Barnett's Elektro the Moto-Man, (1937), marketed by Westinghouse



Jam Handy's Roll-oh for General Motors at New York World's Fair (1940)



See also [Robots in Cinema](#)

See also [A Timeline of Artificial Intelligence](#)

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