

Czech Traces in the world development

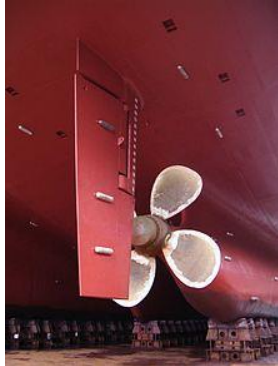
Research results bring progress to human society. Our present state is a continuation of the constructing ideas of our predecessors. Inventions in Czech Lands have also added to the process. I already mentioned one of them – the sugar cube in one of my previous editorials. It was help of a husband to his wife to make her work with sugar easier at home.

The area of the Czech Republic has not reached the sea coasts since the 14 century. The country is situated in the center of Europe and the only place for ships are rivers with a relatively small size as most of them have their springs here. In spite of this fact, it was Josef Ressel in 1827 who invented the screw propeller.

This year was fruitful. The Veverka brothers invented the plough which was a break in the tilling work.

The Kaplan turbine, a propeller-type water turbine with adjustable blades, is also of Czech origin. The research took place in Brno in 1910-1912.

The history of inventions shows that there were more people who invented the same thing in different countries in the same time knowing nothing about each other. The lightning rod is such an example. It happened in 1754 when Prokop Diviš, a Moravian priest, built the first one, while 6 years later Benjamin Franklin built another one.



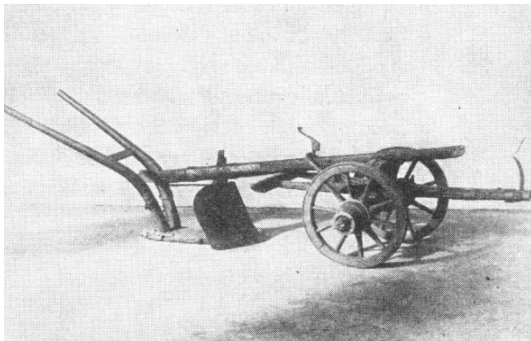
screw propeller



Kaplan turbine



Lightning rod of Prokop Diviš



Veverka brothers' plough



Křižík Light Fountain

František Křižík was a famous inventor of many products connected with electricity. One of them was his Křižík Light Fountain. The fountain used 50 pumps, 1248 reflectors and 3000 jets. It has decorated the Exhibition area of Stromovka park in Prague since 1891.

Human blood is what we have regardless race, continent or gender since human existence. However, it lasted up to 1901 when Karl Landsteiner from Austria discovered blood types – three and his colleagues the fourth one a year later. Six years later, Jan Janský, a Czech psychiatrist, confirmed that there were really four blood groups and classified them correctly without knowing anything about Landsteiner's discovery.

To have good sense of sight is a win. Spectacles can help us if we have a problem with this sense. Current fashion is also a fashion with spectacles. However, there are many people who do not like or cannot wear them. Contact lenses were a solution for them. The human eye is very sensitive and the original material – glass, and plexiglass later on were not suitable for everybody. Otto Wichterle and Drahošlav Lím discovered soft lenses in 1955.

Fashion is a phenomenon whose history has the same length as human history. Otto Wichterle discovered kaprolaktam in 1940's named silon. This material allowed women to wear attractive transparent stockings later on.



Another Czech novelty for fashion is the press stud.

The mechanical pencil Versatil is an invention of a small and worldwide used utensil from 1950's.

Remoska, a movable electric oven with a heating system in the upper part, has been being used nearly in all kitchens in my country since 1950's. It became famous abroad after 1989.

And something from photogrammetry. The first colour photograph which became a base for Kodak and Agfa color photographs with three film layers was invented by Karel Schinzel, who was born in Bruntál. He submitted his application for patent in Vienna in 1905.

This is a short list of inventions that have made a "finger print" in the world of technical and medical developments.

Btw, the first analysis of a finger print was described by Jan Evangelista Purkyně, Czech anatomist, physiologist, biologist and philosopher, in 1823.