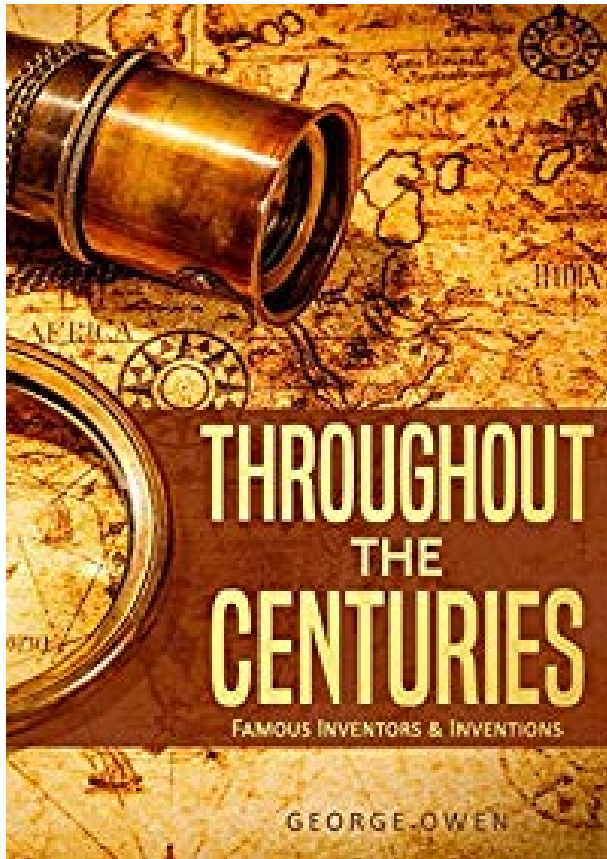


# THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES: FAMOUS INVENTORS & INVENTIONS



<b>Published:</b>	October 1st 2017
<b>Pages:</b>	63
<b>Author:</b>	George Owen
<b>Goodreads Rating:</b>	4.50
<b>ASIN</b>	B07641RBJ9

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There has been just over 2000 years since we started using the AD suffix.

Anno Domini, and in almost every century something has been created that has made life better, or at least different. This book is a gentle trawl through some of the most important, and often bizarre, inventions of mankind, a light-hearted look at the things that have improved lives for people of the time, and often into the future. Many of us believe that Stephenson's Rocket signalled the beginning of life of the steam engine. In fact, a Roman invention predated it by over 1600 years. Read of how the early centuries following the death of Christ were dominated by inventions from not only the Romans, but also the Chinese. See how far back in time the classic games of Chess and Backgammon were invented, and discover for how long street lighting has been around. Learn about the inspiring and ultimately tragic story of a war time hero who is responsible for probably the most significant technological change impacting on our current lives. And, for those of you staring short sightedly through spectacles, find out about the origins of these useful accessories. Read on, and enjoy a whistle-stop tour through the inventiveness of mankind over the centuries.