



BROWN UNIVERSITY Providence, Rhode Island • 02912

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

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Dear Phil:

Now, about dreams. In engineering/technology it is very difficult to document things because technologists are supposed to be "illiterate". I will draw on my own resources and think that in this field it is necessary to distinguish three categories of dreams: Impossible, Fulfilled, and Contemporary.

Impossible dreams: The dream of the perpetuum mobile of the First and Second kind.
The dream of the frictionless mechanism.
The dream of the anti-gravity shield.

Fulfilled dreams: The dream of circumnavigating the globe.
The dream of heavier-than-air flight.
The dream of space travel.
The dream of landing on the moon.
The dream of the horseless carriage.
The dream of the submarine.
The dream of the amphibian.
Sending voice and pictures over distances
(first with and later without wires.)

Under this heading, I suppose, you could list any remarkable invention; almost all started as dreams at one time or another.

Contemporary dreams (or dreams of pending achievements)

The dream of the abundant, continuously available, renewable, absolutely safe, absolutely nonpolluting electric power station - large-scale or small-scale.

Ditto - but portable.
The dream of the robot-servant.
The dream of the computer that can read handwriting (even a physician's).
The dream of the typewriter that can transcribe from voice dictation.
The dream of the re-usable space rocket (shuttle).
The dream of the safe cigarette.
The dream of the death-ray that stops engines or does many other marvellous (or nefarious) things.
The dream of a fastener (bolt plus nut etc.) that cannot be shaken loose by violent vibrations.
Flawless weather prediction; climate (weather) control.
Etc., etc. etc.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph