

Feats of Feet

Engineering on a Human Scale

Books by Henry Petroski

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Science News Books*

Engineers of Dreams

Engineers of Dreams is the story behind the United States' great bridges, particularly those constructed during the great bridge-building era of the 1870s through the 1930s. The stories of those individuals who conceived the St. Louis, George Washington, and Golden Gate bridges draws not only on their mastery of numbers but on their gifts for persuasion and self-promotion. It is an account of triumphs and ignominious disasters (including that of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which literally twisted itself apart in high wind). Throughout this grandly engaging book, Petroski lets us see how bridges became the "symbols and souls" of our civilization, as well as testaments to their builders' vision, ingenuity, and perseverance. —from Vintage

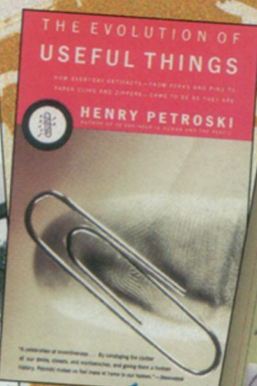
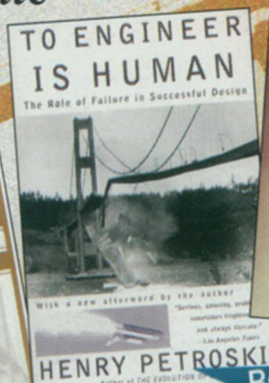
"Seamlessly linked. . . . With astonishing scope and generosity of view, Mr. Petroski places the tradition of American bridge-building in perspective." —THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

Vintage, 1995, 479 pages, 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$15.00

To Engineer Is Human

How did a simple design error cause one of the great disasters of the 1980s—the collapse of the walkways at the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel? What made the graceful and innovative Tacoma Narrows Bridge twist apart in a mild wind in 1940? How did an oversized waterlily inspire the magnificent Crystal Palace, the crowning achievement of Victorian architecture and engineering? These are some of the failures and successes that Henry Petroski examines in this engaging, wonderfully literate book. More than a series of fascinating case studies, *To Engineer Is Human* is a work that looks at our deepest notions of progress and perfection, tracing the fine connection between the quantifiable realm of science and the chaotic realities of everyday life. —from Vintage

Vintage, 1992, 251 pages, 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$13.00



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The Evolution of Useful Things

How did the table fork acquire a fourth tine? What advantage does the Phillips-head screw have over its single-grooved predecessor? Why does the paper clip look the way it does? What makes Scotch tape Scotch?

In this delightful book, Petroski takes a microscopic look at artifacts that most of us count on but rarely contemplate, including such icons of the everyday as pins, Post-its, and fast-food "clamshell" containers. At the same time, he offers a convincing new theory of technological innovation as a response to the perceived failures of existing products—suggesting that irritation, and not necessity, is the mother of invention. —from Vintage

Vintage, 1992, 288 pages, 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$13.00

Remaking the World

This collection of informative and pleasurable essays by Henry Petroski elucidates the role of engineers in shaping our environment in countless ways, big and small.

In *Remaking the World*, Petroski gravitates toward the big: the English Channel tunnel, the Panama Canal, the Hoover Dam, the Queen Elizabeth II, and the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, now the tallest buildings in the world. He profiles Charles Steinmetz, the genius of General Electric Co.; Henry Martyn Robert, a military engineer who created Roberts' Rules of Order; and James Nasmyth, the Scotsman whose machine tools helped shape 19th century ocean and rail transportation. Petroski sifts through the fossils of technology for cautionary tales and remarkable twists of fortune, and he reminds us that failure is often a necessary stop on the path to new discoveries. He explains soil mechanics by way of a game of rock, scissors, paper, and clarifies fundamental principles of engineering through the spokes of a Ferris wheel. —from Knopf

Knopf, 1998, 239 pages, 5 3/4" x 8 1/2",
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