Great Inventions of the 19th Century | Innovative technologies | Flying devices and planes

Humanity dreamed of flying since its dawn; 19th century inventions made that possible.

The dream of flying became a reality in the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th centuries. As early as 1853 a passenger-carrying glider was built successfully. The first steam-powered craft was built in 1894. This was closely followed by the achievements of the Wright brothers in 1903. With the invention of steam and internal combustion engines it became possible to control flight in devices heavier than the air. As with every other technological invention, flying devices were put to use in military actions. The first country to use them was Italy during the Italian–Turkish war in 1911–12. The beautiful dream of flying became a nightmare for some. World War 1 served as a test arena for aeroplanes.

Working Number:	FR 036
Name:	In the year 2000: The tennis lawn; the eaglet hunters; on the road to London (Pas-de-Calais)
Holding Museum:	National Library of France
Date:	19th century
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	The French popular imagination was captured by the dream of flying. As usual during periods of great transformations, people saw the world as moving in a continuous, optimistic progress. It was very common to imagine the future as a science fiction novel.

Working Number:	IT1 086
Name:	'The War on Trial'
Holding Museum:	Gramsci Institute Foundation
Date:	1913
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	Giuseppe Scalarini worked for the socialist newspaper Avanti! His anticolonial cartoons spoke out against the political interests of the war in Libya and the consequences of war on the population.

Working Number:	IT1 087
Name:	'Air force'
Holding Museum:	State Library of Modern and Contemporary History
Date:	1911
Materials:	-
Curator Justification:	Giuseppe Scalarini worked for the socialist newspaper Avanti! His anticolonial cartoons spoke out against the political interests of the war in Libya and the consequences of war on the population.