In this collection of well-told anecdotes about technology and ingenuity, John Lienhard brings a relentless optimism to his exposition of “the complex mirroring processes that define technology-driven evolution” (p. 127). He ranges widely in time, from the domestication of wheat around 10,000 years ago to episodes from his own career as an engineer and educator. Readers will find short treatments of Ancient pumps, Gothic cathedrals, Victorian bridge engineers, many famous and not-so-famous airplanes, all loosely organized into chapters. “We are always up for one more saga of a heroic technology carried out by a self-sacrificing hero,” he writes (p. 190) aptly summarizing the celebratory tone of his book. Readers desiring more can consult the Public Radio scripts from which this book was formed at <www.uh.edu/engines>.

Thomas J. Misa, Department of Humanities, Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago)