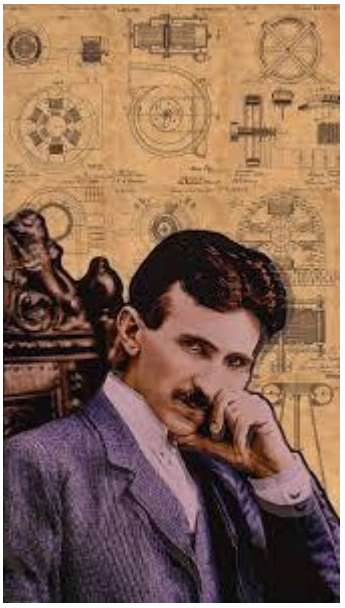
Tesla at Ten



"How extraordinary was my life,
an incident may illustrate....

I was fascinated by a description of Niagara Falls I had perused
[as a 10-year-old child], and pictured in my imagination a big wheel run by the Falls.

I told my uncle that I would go to America and carry out the scheme.

30 years later I saw my ideas carried out at Niagara Falls and marvelled at the unfathomable mystery of the mind."

-Tesla, 1919

In 1892, he proposed sending
photographs by telegraph and wireless:

Tesla credits Dr. Korn as "the most successful as well as prolific in the s
f improvements" (p. A-96). Korn utilized a vacuum tube, selenium cell
requency Tesla transformer. This arrangement, however, appears to have bee
nceived by Tesla, himself:

> In 1892, the attention of the scientific world was directed to a
> onderfully sensitive receiver, consisting of an electron stream
> maintained in a delicately balanced condition in a vacuum bulb, by
> means of which it was proposed to use photography in the
> transmission of telegraphic and telephonic messages through
> Atlantic cables, and later also by wireless. (p. A-96)

From the perspective of one involved in this field, Tesla was by no means
s early work in telephotography and television. It is quite possible that
nducted for himself and displayed successful demonstrations of the art, and
t probably witnessed the experiments of others during the time of the mid-
Korn (1931) stated, in a letter honoring Tesla's 75th birthday:

> I hope you will be pleased by my pointing out anew how
> Tesla-currents were useful in the first stage of phototelegrapey. In
> evacuated tube now-a-days [called] neon tubes have replaced the old
> apparatus — made luminescent by Tesla-currents -- sent its rays
> through a small window on the receiving photographic paper, and
> the Tesla-currents were modulated by the signals arriving from the
> transmitting station. The first photograph ever sent over a
> telegraphic line...was received in 1904 in this manner. This was the
> beginning of modern phototelegraphy.

To the public, Tesla appeared enigmatic, contradictory, unworldly.
Gastic superman encased in a yellow halo of lightning; and yet, he was
ther genius inventor, like Edison. Tesla's modern technological age under
nstream society was clearly perceived as a probable reality by the intelle
, Bristane; Hawthorne; Wells). Century editor Robert Underwood Johnson
a letter to his friend which stated that he

In 1898 he demonstrated a
Remote Controlled Boat,

and proposed AI Robotics

SECTION FIVE

Teleautomaton

One of Tesla's greatest inventions in terms of sheer ingenuity, originality and complexity of design was a remote control robotic boat which he called the teleautomaton. This device, which Tesla unveiled to the world at the electrical show at Madison Square Garden (New York Times, 5/3/1898, p.7) during the height of the Spanish-American War, comprised the following features:

1. Wireless communication encompassing tuned circuits and resonant receivers.
2. A self-contained unit able to receive commands and respond do them.

Simply stated, the Tesla creation contained all of the essential principles to what came to be known a few years later as the radio. Also, the device comprised the secret behind the wireless transmission of electrical power of a very precise nature. Tesla currents and not Hertzian waves would become the standard frequencies for both the radio and television industries. They were also generated by the oscillator that he had invented about seven years earlier.

Was this the work of genius? Either one of those inventions was worthy of immortal recognition in the history of invention because he was the first, some eight years ahead of the first wireless transmissions of music and at least a quarter of a century ahead of the advent of remote controlled devices. Such creations as the wireless telephone, garage door opener, the car radio, remote control and the transmission of pictures over the air waves all derive from this one creation.

[ChuckADV JpiCedar]

Beans

Adventure

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