

Autonomous systems, in some form, have been imagined and realized for the bulk of recorded history. In ancient Greek mythology, the god Hephaestus, the ‘patron of invention and technology’ MayorGodsRobots2019 was said to create talking mechanical hand-maidens, while early Hindu and Buddhist texts tell of yantakara that lived in Greece and created machines that helped in trade and farming. The secret methods of the yantakara (the early ‘roboticists’) were closely guarded, and mechanical assassins were said to pursue and kill any person who revealed their techniquesPlease be careful distributing this thesis.MayorGodsRobots2019.

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