

**Bolton  
Council**

**Museum**

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## Museum @ Home Stories

William Heath's March of Intellect, 1829



After the Industrial Revolution people were wondering about where scientific inventions would take them. This is one of several prints

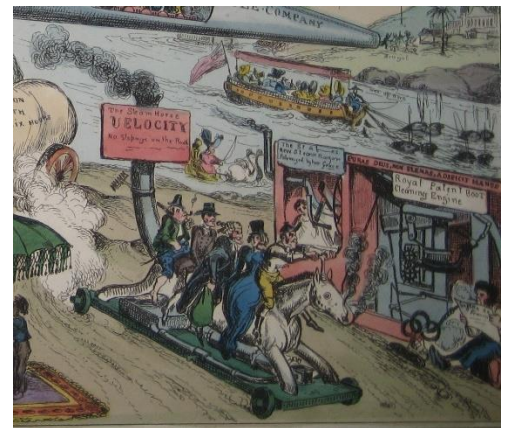
published by Heath between 1825 and 1829. They lampooned the century's zeal for new inventions and technology.

William Heath imagined wondrous things that might happen in the future, just like we do today!



A flying postman is collecting a letter from a footman in livery, who is smoking a giant pipe.

Here is a steam-powered horse carrying four passengers and driven by a man dressed as a jockey. Steam is coming out of the horse's nostrils and from a pipe at the back. The sign reads 'The Steam Horse VELOCITY No Stoppage on the Road'.



Another imagined mode of transport is a gigantic vacuum which sends people direct to Bengal in India. People are stepping into the tube, with a man who has reached Bengal shaking the hand of the person greeting him. The suspension bridge in the background would take people to Cape Town in South Africa!

Flying was also satirised. Here a whale-like monster is flying convicts to New South Wales in Australia and a woman is flying a small machine with two propellers, using a kite to keep her in the air.



This is labelled 'McAdam's Newly Invented to lay the Dust he makes'. In 1816 John McAdam had invented a new way to lay roads, using crushed stone which was bound with gravel and lay on top of a base of large stones. The giant watering can is steam-powered and spraying water from both spouts.

In modern times, of course, it is possible to fly to Australia and we have cars too. However, no-one has yet invented a vacuum tube to carry people to India and there are no flying post men or women! What kinds of fantastical inventions do you think there might be in the future?