

# CYCLOPAEDIA 1 - STEAMPUNK

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## OVERVIEW

Steampunk is genre of speculative fiction that incorporates science, technology and aesthetics inspired by nineteenth century industrial steam-powered machinery as well as Victorian ideals. Steampunk works are often set in the British Victorian era or American "Wild West" or in a future world that evolved but never moved beyond the foundation of steam power technologies and sciences of the nineteenth century.

Though many would point to Jules Verne and H.G. Wells as the sources of Steampunk, most sources cite the term steampunk being originated by science fiction author K. W. Jeter in the 1980s. He and other authors were writing speculative fiction taking place in a 19th century (usually Victorian) setting similar to H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. He was looking for a classification term and recommended to a publisher 'steam-punks', perhaps.

Steampunk incorporates anachronistic versions of technology such as steam engines, lighter-than-air airships, clockwork, analog computers, and futuristic designs similar to Tesla's inventions. Steampunk also has its own aesthetic and fashion with a mix of Victorian classic, American west, art nouveau, and clockwork, along with leather & brass accents.

## VERNEAN VS DICKENSIAN

There is some debate whether steampunk should be more Vernean or Dickensian.

- Vernean Steampunk, following the writings of Jules Verne, looks at steampunk as optimistic and futuristic with lots of science, technology and heroism.
- Dickensian Steampunk, following the writings of Charles Dickens, looks at steampunk as darker and more foreboding with lots of industry, greyness, and villainy.

Following are sources of information pertaining to Steampunk to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers to know where to start their research.

## ARTICLES

### ***Blending genres, bending time: Steampunk on the western Frontier***

By Miller C.J.; Van Riper A.B.

Source: *Journal of Popular Film and Television*, v39 n2 (2011 04 01): 85-92

### ***Extraordinary Pasts: Steampunk as a Mode of Historical Representation***

By Rose, M.

Source: *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, 20, no. 3, (2009): 319-333

### ***Prescriptivists vs. Descriptivists: Defining Steampunk***

By Nevins, J.

Source: *Science Fiction Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 3 (November 2011), pp. 513-518

**Steampunk**

By Wilson, K.

Source: *Meanjin*, v69 n2 (Winter 2010):  
20-33

**Vapour trails: Steampunk's florid industrial nostalgia might yet be the defining aesthetic of our time**

By Coulthart, J.

Source: *Eye* (London) n86 (2013 09 01):  
72-76

**What Is Steampunk, and Do I Want It in My Library?**

By Rozmus, E.

Source: *Library Media Connection*, v30 n2  
p31-33 Oct 2011

**The Great Exhibition of 1851: a Nation on Display**

By Auerbach, John

**Hellboy – comic series**

By Mignola, Mike

**Homunculus**

By Blaylock, James

**How to Be a Victorian: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Victorian Life**

By Goodman, Ruth

**The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen – comic series**

By Moore, Alan

**Leviathan**

By Westerfeld, Scott

**Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences**

By Ballantine, Philippa and Morris, Tee

**Morlock Night**

By Jeter, K.W.

**Mortal Engines**

By Reeves, Philip

**Parasol Protectorate**

By Carriger, Gail

**Steampunk: An Illustrated History of Fantastical Fiction, Fanciful Film and Other Victorian Visions**

By Robb, Brian J.

**The Steampunk Bible: An Illustrated Guide to the World of Imaginary Airships, Corsets and Goggles, Mad Scientists, and Strange Literature**

By VanderMeer, Jeff and Chambers, S.J.

## BOOKS

**Anubis Gates**

By Powers, Tim

**Aristocratic Women and Political Society in Victorian Britain**

By Reynolds, K. D.

**Boneshaker**

By Priest, Cherie

**Britain's Century**

By Rubinstein, W. D.

**The Crimean War**

By Baumgart, Winfried

**The Difference Engine**

By Sterling, Bruce and Gibson, William

**Girl Genius – comic series**

By Foglio, Phil & Kaja

***Steampunk: Fantasy Art, Fashion, Fiction & The Movies (Gothic Dreams)***

By Winchester, Henry

***The Steampunk Gazette***

By Willeford, Thomas

***The Time Machine***

By Wells, H.G.

***Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea***

By Verne, Jules

***Victorian America and the Civil War***

By Rose, Anne C.

***Victorian Babylon: People, Streets and Images in Nineteenth-Century London***

By Nead, Lynda

***The Victorian City: Everyday Life in Dickens' London***

By Flanders, Judith

***This Victorian Life: Modern Adventures in Nineteenth-Century Culture, Cooking, Fashion, and Technology***

By Chrisman, Sarah A.

***Victorian Values***

By Marsden, Gordon

***The Warlord of the Air***

By Moorecock, Michael

## GAMES

*Abney Park's Airship Pirates* - RPG

*Assassin's Creed* - Computer Game

*BioShock* - Computer Game

*Brass and Steel* - RPG

*Castle Falkenstein* - RPG

*Clockwork & Chivalry* - RPG

*Cthulhu by Gaslight* - RPG

*Cogs, Cakes, & Swordsticks* - RPG

*Deadlands* - RPG

*Eberron* - RPG

*Etherscope* - RPG

*Forgotten Futures* - RPG

*Gaslight: Victorian Fantasy* – RPG

*Girl Genius: The Works* - Tabletop Game

*GURPS Steampunk* - RPG

*GURPS Steam-Tech* - RPG

*Heavy Steam* - Tabletop Game

*Iron Kingdoms* - Tabletop Game

*Kings of Air and Steam* - Tabletop Game

*Leviathans* - Tabletop Game

*Little Wars* - Tabletop Game

*The Ministry Initiative* - RPG

*Mission Red Planet* - Tabletop Game

*Munchkin: Steampunk* - Tabletop Game

*OGL Steampunk* - RPG

*Planet Steam* - Tabletop Game

*Space: 1889* - RPG

*Spelljammer* - RPG

*Steampunk Rally* - Tabletop Game

*Thief: The Dark Project* - Computer Game

*Tripods!* - Tabletop Game

*Victoriana* - RPG

*Zeppelin Attack* - Tabletop Game

## CINEMA

*20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*

*The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*

*The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.* - TV

*Around the World in 80 Days*

*Atlantis: The Lost Empire*

*The Brothers Grimm*

*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

*Hellboy*

*Iron Sky*

*Journey to the Center of the Earth*  
*The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*  
*Legend - TV*  
*Q.E.D. - TV*  
*The Prestige*  
*Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*  
*Steamboy*  
*The Time Machine*  
*Van Helsing*  
*Wild Wild West - TV*  
*Young Sherlock Holmes*

## LOCATIONS

Antique Gas And Steam Museum  
<http://steam-museum.com/>

London Museum Of Water And Steam  
<http://waterandsteam.org.uk/>

Nikola Tesla Museum  
[http://www.tesla-museum.org/meni\\_en.htm](http://www.tesla-museum.org/meni_en.htm)

The Steam Museum  
<http://steam-museum.com/>

Steampunk World's Fair  
<http://www.steampunkworldsfair.com>

TeslaCon  
<http://teslacon.com/>

Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe  
<http://www.teslasciencecenter.org/>

Thomas Edison National Historical Park  
<http://www.nps.gov/edis/index.htm>

## PEOPLE

Charles Babbage  
Isambard Kingdom Brunel  
Samuel Colt  
Charles Darwin  
Humphry Davy  
Charles Dickens  
Thomas Edison  
Michael Faraday  
Freemasons  
Robert Fulton  
Illuminati  
Jack the Ripper  
Abraham Lincoln  
David Livingston  
Ada Lovelace  
Samuel Morse  
Charles Algernon Parsons  
Edgar Allen Poe  
George Pullman  
George Stephenson  
Mary Shelley  
Nikola Tesla  
Richard Trevithick  
Thuggees  
Jules Verne  
Queen Victoria  
Werner von Siemens  
Vril Society  
James Watt  
H.G. Wells