The Rhodes Gallery has four automata machines.

*Automata* is a description of humanoid machines which enable wonders by mechanical or pneumatical means such as a man opening or closing of doors or statues that pour wine. Ctesibius (285 BC to 222 BC) is credited with the invention of the rack and pinion and other automata. Hero of Alexandria (10 AD to 70 AD) references Ctebius but none of his written work survives.

Hero’s work is well documented. The most comprehensive edition of Hero's works was published in 5 volumes in Leipzig by the publishing house Teubner in 1903. Hero’s automata in the [Hellenistic world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization) were intended as toys, religious idols, or tools for demonstrating basic scientific principles.

Some wonderful new effects were introduced in a Golden Age that lasted from the mid- 1800s to the beginning of the First World War. Leading makers such as Bontems, Lamben, Phalibois, Remo, Roullet et Decamps, Theroude and Vichy influenced and were influenced by each other's creations.

Mr. Rhodes began making his automata in 19xx. We have four separate automata machines made by him.

1. The Moulder
2. The Shervheim
3. The Knisely
4. The Logging Camp

The first 3 automat were given to his 3 daughters. The Griggs County Historical Society has retrieved them from …(story on where they came from here).

Here are fairly detailed descriptions of each automata.

**The Moulder Automata**

This automata consists of:

Steam Engine
The steam engine has 2 human automata that operate it. The first one turns his head from left to right and the second one shovels the coal into the boiler. The steam engine has a piston that moves in and out of the steam compression cylinder, a ? that goes back and forth, a belt that drives a revolving governor at the top, a flywheel with a belt that attaches to a threshing machine.

Just before the threshing machine is a man on a shock stack. He uses a fork to pitch the shocks into the threshing machine. The man waits for the shock to come around and then there is about 5 inches of movement on the fork as it shows the shock being thrown onto the threshing machine.

The belt from the steam engine connects to the main cylinder of the threshing machine. In an actual combine the main cylinder revolves quickly against a concave and does the primary threshing of the crop. The main cylinder on the automata has four belts connected to it. The first belt connects to the main feeder canvas. This rotates around showing the shocks being fed into the machine after the shockman pitches them onto the feeder belt. The second belt is connected to 3 pulleys. The first pulley has a belt that turns the clean grain elevator chain. The second pulley has a belt that turns a pulley on top of the clean grain elevator. This pulley in turn is connected with a belt to another pulley at the top of the clean grain elevator.

The threshing machine starts out with a moving feeder belt that feeds the shocks into the thresher.

Threshing Machine

14 humanoids
4 horses