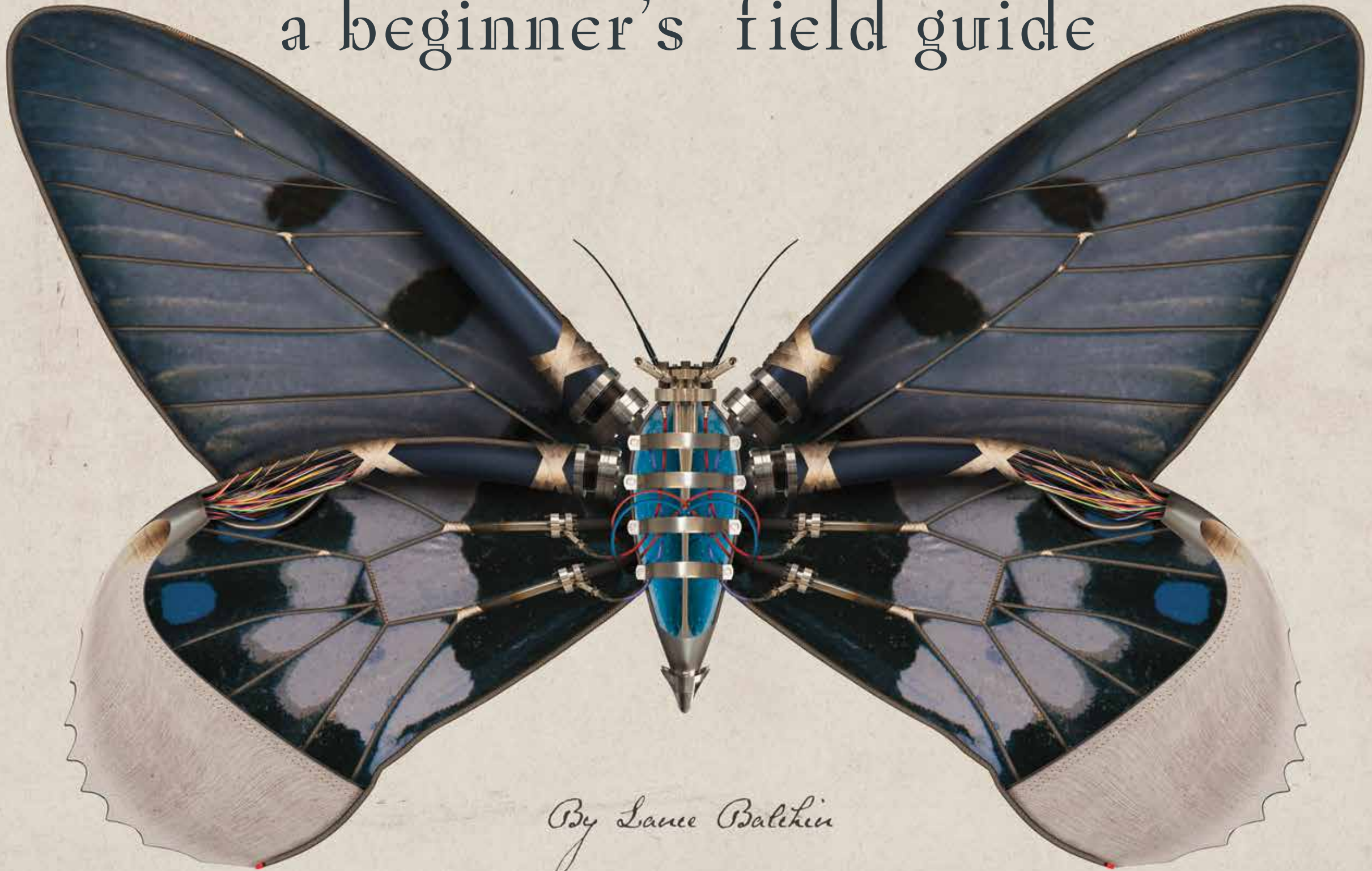


# MECHANICANA

a beginner's field guide



*By Lance Balchin*

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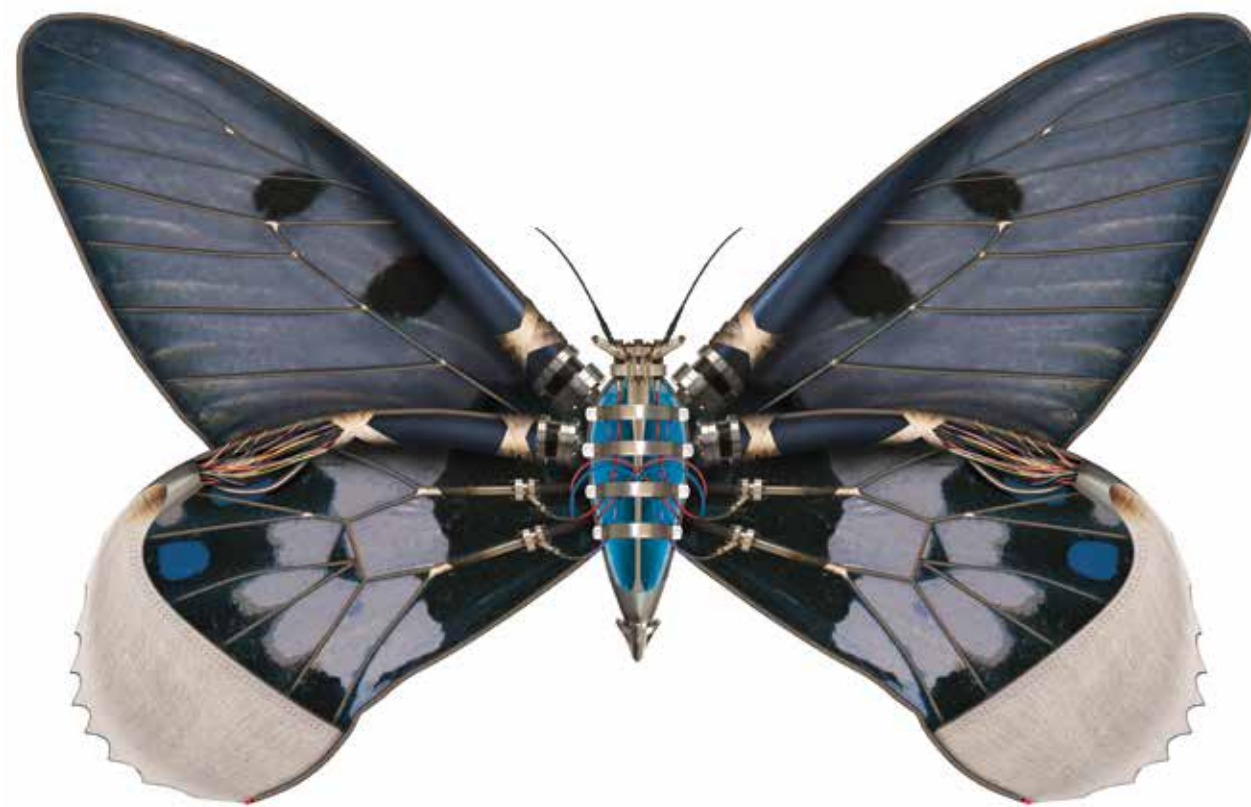
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# Mechanica

THE FIELD GUIDE



by Lance Balchin



The Five Mile Press

# A Brief History



**W**hile readers today have not experienced a world without Mechanica, they were but a mere twinkle in a scientist's eye just over half a century ago. It is hard to believe now, but there was a time when the Earth was bountiful. Its seas teemed with marine life, there was an abundance of vegetation and wildlife on the land, and the ozone contained a perfect balance of natural chemical reactions.

When humans began to populate the planet, their unique ability to create and use tools eventually led to the Industrial Revolution. Manufacturing processes saw the rise of coal as an energy source, but the use of such fossil fuels came at a great price to the planet. At the end of the 22nd Century, Earth could no longer support wildlife. The warnings had been ignored. Corporations continued to expose the environment to chemical and radioactive waste as governments across the globe turned a blind eye.

As the planet became more polluted, many Earth species began to disappear. By 2190, the public were asking questions and demanding solutions. In place of the lost wildlife species, the corporations of

both the East and West began to create Mechanica; human-created life forms designed to replace the old. These creatures not only provided a form of entertainment, but some replaced the roles of extinct wildlife. For example, the early incarnation of *Interfectorem Apis* — a mechanical bee — was used for agricultural purposes under controlled conditions for the propagation of vegetables and plants.

By 2200 vast areas of the Orient and Americas were uninhabitable and wildlife, in turn, became extinct. During the previous century, military drones had engaged in battle to secure territory and natural resources. Many of these drones were damaged in combat and went on to live beyond human control. These damaged drones become known as 'Broken Arrows'. The number of these renegade killing machines increased over time and soon vast areas of the East became no-go zones.

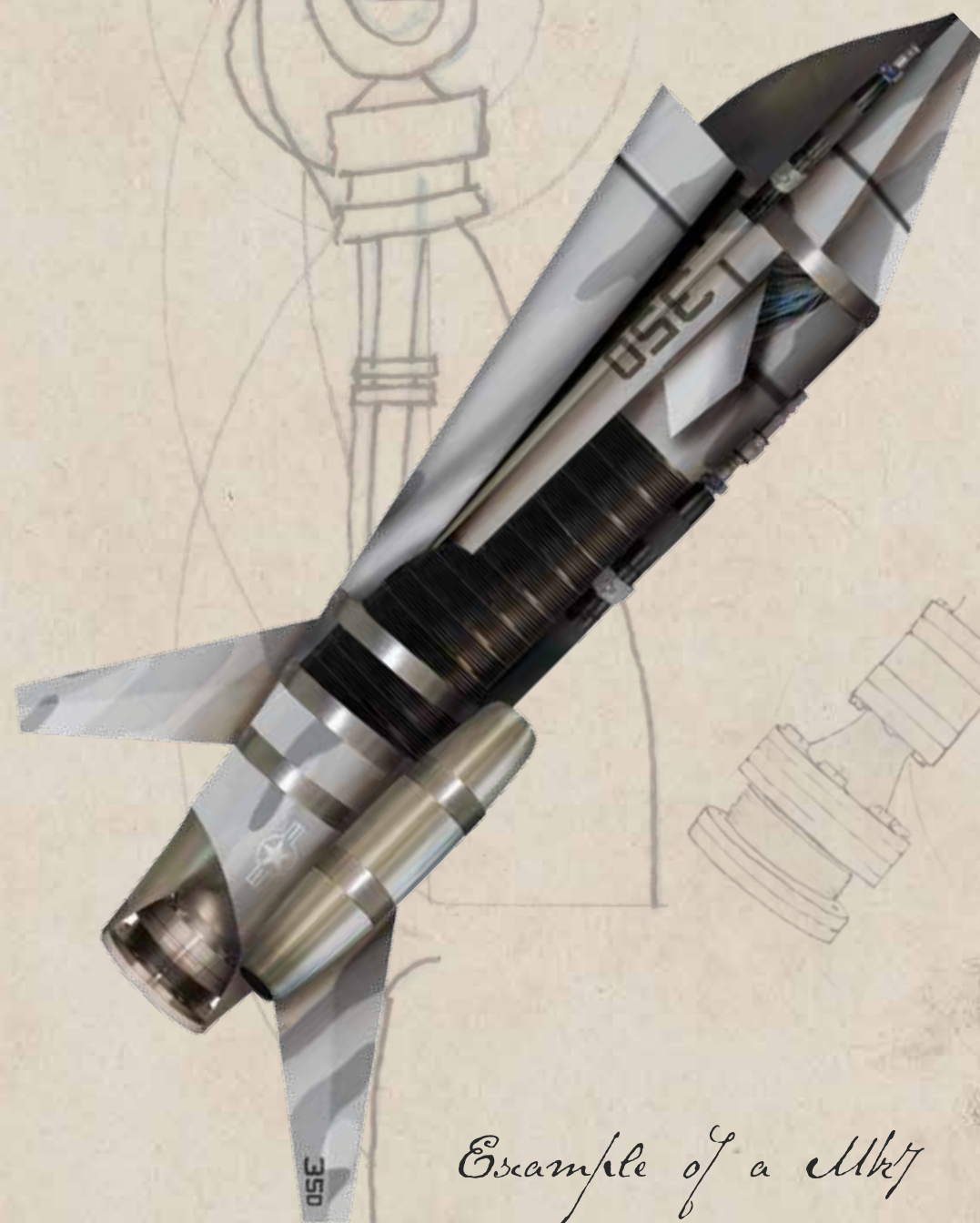
As the dominance of the Broken Arrows took hold, the human population of Earth began to retreat into fortified zones, mostly in the northern parts of Europe, South America and the West of Africa. Small frontier settlements — largely research stations for the study of the uncontrolled robotic life forms —

were established outside of these areas across the globe. Sophisticated automated gun turrets called Steel Wall Defence Systems — capable of destroying any threat with deadly firepower — protected these islands of humanity.

Meanwhile, the early Mechanica models — marketed as Mechapets — continued to delight the populous and provided a nostalgic link to the past. Collectors and wealthy patrons provided secure environments where the Mechanica life forms were displayed for private enjoyment. Small sanctuaries, and eventually larger zoos, were also created for the broader public's entertainment. But the experiment turned sour. Eventually the Mechanica escaped their confinement and began to develop on their own. Many started to 'cross-breed' with Broken Arrows in the wild. New species were created and began to reproduce.

The first example of this evolution was a dragonfly discovered by researchers in the Phillipines Archipelago in 2203. Within 20 years the number of Mechanica species exploded, as did their sophistication and the threat they posed to humans. The governments of the human enclaves outlawed all Mechanica and so began the Homo-Mechanica wars, which would rage for the next 35 years.

Recorded history has always elevated key figures above all others, and so it is with the history of Mechanica. Three names have become synonymous with the emergence of these new life forms on Earth. Most would agree that Chen Sue played the pivotal role....



*Example of a MU320 'Intruder' military drone Circa 2435*

In 2166, 13-year-old Chen Su began work in a robotics factory owned by the Department of Defence on the outskirts of London City. Chen was given a job on the production line, assembling wings for the military drones that the factory built. At age sixteen, he approached his floor manager with an alternative wing design and explained that it would only require a slight change to the current model to make it exponentially stronger. The floor manager took Chen's drawings to the design department who instantly recognised the young man's brilliance. Chen was moved that night into a high-security dormitory and put to work designing the next generation of Drones.

Chen eventually refused to work on the Drones when it became obvious to him the devastating damage and destruction his designs could create. In an act of contrition, he devoted his remaining years to creating the most beautiful Mechanica known to man. Chen Su threw his heart and intellect into his new creations, which were originally designed to bring joy to people, in place of the species lost to this world.

Chen is best known for his revolutionary Series 3 Wing Brace design that first appeared in the Papillo Mechanica range. This simple and beautiful carbon-pressed wing support would change the capabilities and performance of thousands of

different Mechanica variants. It is said that when stray Mechanica are destroyed by the Steel Wall Systems, Chen's wing struts, often remarkably intact, are all that is left. Nearly all of Chen Su's 34 different wing support designs are still found in wild Mechanica species to this day.



The little that is known about Reginald P. Prescott is that he grew up on the streets of London after being abandoned at the age of eight by his parents in 2193. During the increasingly harsh winters, Prescott learned that the only warm place he could find refuge was the Library of London. To stay warm through those cold winters, and cool during the fierce summers, Prescott read. And read some more. He eventually went on to become a passionate teacher, working in the great refugee camps of Surry. When offered a teaching position in a small research settlement on Saraswati in the South Pacific, Prescott jumped at the chance to move to a warmer climate. There were only three students at the school, one of whom he was to have a profound effect upon. That student was Liberty Crisp.



Liberty Crisp was born in 2235 to the famed scientific couple Herbert and Alexandra Crisp. As a young child she had always shown remarkably advanced intelligence, reading by the age of three and taking part in her parents' scientific research by the age of six. When Liberty was eight her mother arranged an excursion to the Natural History Museum of Greater Europe to see — what was believed to be — the last butterfly in existence. This experience deeply moved the young Miss Crisp. Liberty became fascinated by *Mechanica*, spending many hours devouring any information she could find.

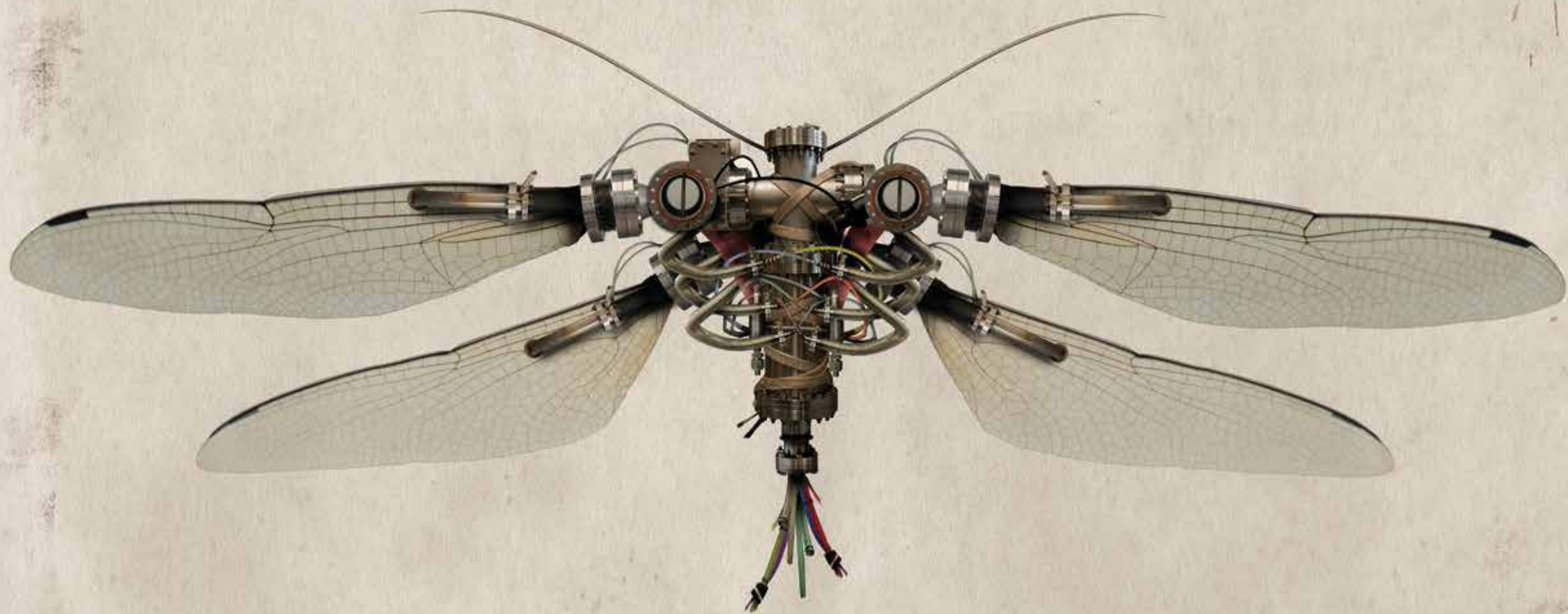
When Liberty was nine years old her mother was killed during a *Mechanica* attack on London. Grief-stricken, Herbert Crisp relocated with his daughter to Saraswati. There she would spend the next five years continuing her studies under the tutelage of Reginald P. Prescott, alongside two other students, Lili and Sasha Maru. As Herbert retreated into his world of science, Liberty was left to the company of her teacher and the Maru children.

In 2250, soon after Liberty's 15th birthday, the Steel Wall Defence System that protected Saraswati completely failed and allowed a fierce attack by wild *Mechanica* to fall on the small settlement. Through the chaos of the battle, Liberty led

Prescott, the Maru children and a wounded Militia guard named Bastien to a supply boat called the *HMS Beagle*. After a final struggle in which Liberty fought off attacking *Mechanica*, the small band of survivors escaped as Saraswati burned. Sadly, Liberty's father could not be saved.

The following pages include a brief history, facts and illustrations of the *Mechanica* species encountered by Miss Liberty Crisp during her famous journey through the Orient in 2250. A more detailed description of this and other journeys into the world of *Mechanica* that Liberty Crisp undertook can be found in the *Mechanica Chronicles*. There is also a brief study of Chen Su's influence in the development of the original *Mechanica* prototypes and how that design would provide the blueprints for the modern day *Mechanica*. Many of the variants contained in this volume no longer exist today, having been quickly replaced by increasingly dangerous *Mechanica* that have evolved over the last 60 years.





*Rese Draco Musca*

# Rex Draco Musca

## KING DRAGONFLY



This very rare and damaged example of a King Dragonfly was discovered in the jungles of the Philippines Archipelago in 2203.

It is one of the first examples of Mechanica and is housed today in the London Museum of Unnatural History. Powered by a simple S90 atomic drive it is beautiful in its simplicity. Evolving from the Dutch-designed 4800 series of dragonflies, one can see it has divested itself of the original pulse rockets in favour of the more elegant direct piston control system illustrated.

Also to be noted is the refinement of the wing structure. This allows the creature, through sensors built directly into the wing structure, to detect threats at longer distances and navigate its environment with greater accuracy. These Mechanica are still reportedly seen in all twelve of the Eastern provinces to this day, with some sighting creatures over 50cm wide. This, however, remains the only collected example.

<b>Weight</b> -	220 grams
<b>Width</b> -	14 centimetres
<b>Speed</b> -	80 kilometres per hour (estimated)
<b>Power Source</b> -	Homoki S90 Atomic Unit
<b>Sensors</b> -	Acoustic and Sonar
<b>Origin</b> -	England and Holland



*Papilio Factum in Sina*

# Papilo Factum in Sina

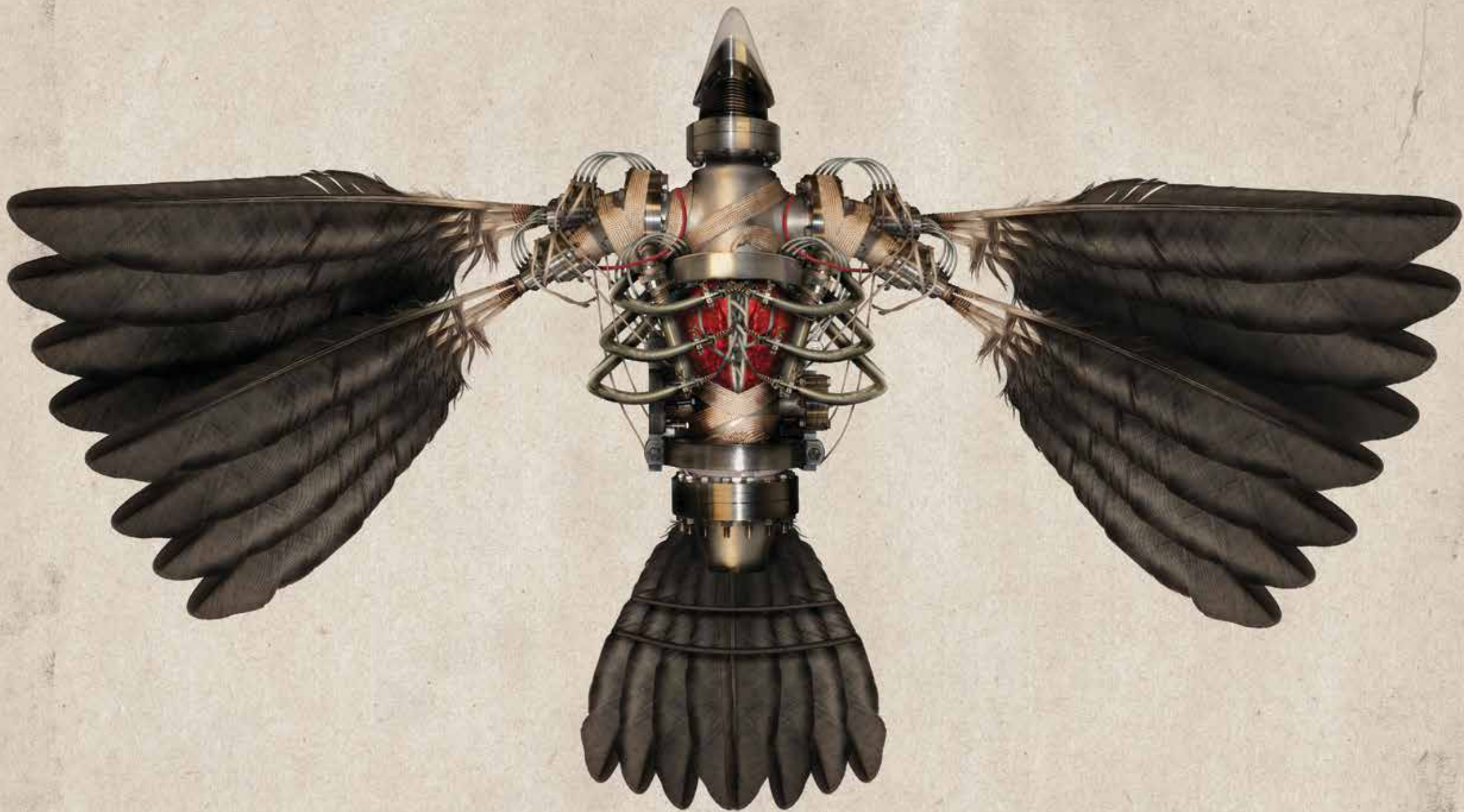
## CHINESE BUTTERFLY



The simplicity of this Chinese-manufactured butterfly is deceptive. Evolving from the creatures designed by the famous Chen Su, this Mechanica has adapted to the harsh environment of the Mongolian Steppe. Gathering energy from the limited available sunlight through its wings, the Papilo Factum in Sina is surprisingly fast and powerful, reaching speeds of up to 400kph. The butterfly is still quite common today in parts of the Eastern Provinces and considered harmless to humans.

On her voyage through the Orient, Liberty Crisp saw many of these beautiful Mechanica passing high above *The HMS Beagle*. During a particularly fierce typhoon in the South China Sea one night, a swarm of Papilo Factum in Sina sought refuge on the bow of the boat. The light generated by the thousands of glowing solar reactors was enough to bathe the entire ship in a beautiful orange glow. Once the sun rose the next morning, the butterflies recharged and peacefully fluttered away.

<b>Weight</b> -	78 grams
<b>Width</b> -	23 centimetres
<b>Speed</b> -	400 kilometres per hour
<b>Power Source</b> -	Dæwon Solar Sails
<b>Sensors</b> -	3D Environment Mapping
<b>Origin</b> -	China



*Merula Electrica*

# Merula Electrica

## ELECTRIC BLACKBIRD



Not all Mechanica have evolved successfully. Inherent flaws are often amplified as species develop in the wild. This blackbird is a hybrid of the Childress B4 Sparrow and the Speyer Corp Electric Blackbird and illustrates a mismatch in technology. The smaller Childress fusion power plant is simply not powerful enough to carry the heavier Speyer framework.

Many species that have developed in the wild have become, over time, no longer tenable. In an ironic nod to Darwin's idea of 'survival of the fittest', these Mechanica were eventually overtaken by more successful variants and salvaged for parts. Liberty discovered this rare example of failed Mechanica on one of the many collecting trips she took with her father before the attack on Saraswati. She would go on to write at length about these failed evolutions and what we can learn from them.

<b>Weight</b> -	1.9 kilograms
<b>Width</b> -	43 centimetres
<b>Speed</b> -	Unknown
<b>Power Source</b> -	Childress B4 Fusion Unit
<b>Sensors</b> -	3D Environment Mapping
<b>Origin</b> -	USA



*Galeem Linea*



*Parva Diptera*



*Mechanica Papilo*



*Interfectorem  
Apis*



*Jejunium Psittacus*



*Papilo Factum  
in Linea*



*Pesc Draco Musca*



*Potestatem Aranea*

*Aquila Artificialis*

*Merula Electrica*



*Colubris Octonus*



*Vespertillo Automatismus*

*Anguis Articulator*



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Welcome to future Earth.  
Despite repeated warnings, the environment has become polluted  
to such an extent that many areas of the globe have become  
uninhabitable and wildlife is now extinct.  
From the ashes, a new style of 'wildlife' is created.  
Wildlife that will not remain harnessed by humankind.  
Welcome to the world of Mechanica.



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