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**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World.  
Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Фантастические романы предсказывающие будущее: Российские и  
зарубежные авторы»**

"Fantastic novels predicting the future: Russian and foreign authors"

Участники:



Денис Артефьев



Кирилл Лобанов



Артем Комаров



Василий Капцов

Руководитель группы: Матвеева Наталья Викторовна

## Theses

1. Introduction. The kinds of science fiction novels.
2. Scientific insights of Science fiction writers.
  - 2.1. Jules Gabriel Verne's technological predictions that came true.
  - 2.2. Herbert George Wells' knowledge of the future.
  - 2.3. Karel Chapek's R.U.R. (Rossumovi universalni robot / Intelligent Universal robot).
  - 2.4. Alexander Romanovich Belyaev's insights.
  - 2.5. Arthur C. Clarke's advanced knowledge on asteroid number 7794 discovery, prediction of Jupiter's Moons, justification of the use of a geostationary orbit.
  - 2.6. Bank cards and the Internet first appearance in the science fiction novels.
3. Conclusion. Insights into future is a remarkable ability of science fiction writers.

From times immemorial people wanted to see beyond the curtain, being excited and awed with fortune telling and foreseeing made by prophets, seers, magicians, or scientists. Future is unknown, disclosed for us, it puzzles the minds, that why the science fiction books that have revealed the future to people are so very interesting. Science fiction writers who grasp the ideas from their imagination and write them on paper give the readers a chance to spend hours in their new worlds of imagination. There are many kinds of novels predicting the future, devoted to future social changes, to space travel, to alien arrival to the Earth and so on. Our essay is devoted to the science fiction writers who predicted technological innovations, sometimes with the incredible precision, and their novels. Some of the inventions once been conjured up by the imagination become a reality. These are scuba diving, the creation of an artificial lung, the appearance of unmanned aircraft, the possible launch of an orbital station for a human spacewalk, the emergence of plastic surgery and transplantology, and we appreciate their appearance. Some other technologies described in science fiction literature are dangerous and disgusting, and it would be nice if they have never come true.

We'd like to start with a French writer Jules Gabriel Verne who is considered one of the most brilliant visionaries now and whose book "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" is a classic science fiction novel. The book was first published between 20 March 1869 and 20 June 1870 in the magazine "Magasin d'éducation et de récréation" ("Magazine for Education and Entertainment") in Paris. Its popularity could be explained quite easily: in his book Verne carefully followed all the novelties of science and technology. For sure, he was aware that the Confederates had used a submarine during the American Civil War, but the rickety Confederate shell with a pedal drive cannot be compared with the protagonist of the 1870 novel "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Water" – the mighty "Nautilus", where everything works at the expense of electricity. Being seen from nowadays we understand that water and electricity are incompatible things, as water is a perfect conductor and in case of any accident the explosion couldn't be avoided. And the ability of Jules Verne's boat not to break surface for a long time was inherited by modern nuclear submarines. By the way, in "Mysterious Island", the actual

continuation of this novel, Verne armed the Nautilus with torpedoes, the naval weapon that is successfully used in reality.

Herbert George Wells, an English writer, is the author of several novels. He foresaw the advent of aircrafts, tanks, space and time travel, nuclear weapons, satellite television and of the network resembling the World Wide Web. His novel "The World Set Free", written in 1913 and published in 1914, nuclear weapon and the radiation caused by its use are described. The Well's atomic bomb in the novel is different from the one later constructed. In the novel it is a thick-walled iron sphere, about 60 cm in diameter. Inside this sphere in a vacuum there is a large ball of carolinium, a fictional radioactive element, with a half-life period of 17 days. In a vacuum, in the absence of air, carolinium sits quietly without any radio reaction. There are two handles on the atomic bomb, something like sports kettlebell; between them there is a hole plugged with a rubber stopper. To use the atomic bomb, it was necessary to take it by the handles, drag it to the exit door of the aircraft cabin, then, holding it by the handles, extract the rubber stopper with one's teeth and immediately throw the bomb out of the plane. Now we know such actions would cause a severe atomic disease. At that time the impact of radiation wasn't studied. Due to the contact of air with carolinium, the half-decay begins, and a lot of energy released. The power of this energy was comparable to the power of the explosion of a conventional bomb. In the novel, the "explosion" of the atomic bomb generated radiation. The atomic bombs in the novel were transported in 3-count coffin-like oblong boxes.

R.U.R. is an abbreviation for Rossumovi univerzální roboti (Intelligent Universal Robot). "R.U.R." is a science fiction play written by Karel Čapek, a Czech writer, in 1920. The creation of "R.U.R." facilitated the popularization of the term "robot". In Czech, the word "robota" means "hard labor", "hard work". We are still waiting the intelligent robots to appear in our life.

A Russian science fiction writer Alexander Romanovich Belyaev is called the "Russian Jules Verne". His outstanding novel "Head of Professor Dowel" turned out to be predictive, the innovation presented in it is exceptionally technological though. In a year after the publication of this book, the scientific world had known about the experiment of the surgeon Sergei Bryukhonenko: he demonstrated how the head of a

dog separated from the body, connected to an artificial blood supply system, showed signs of life. Professor Dowell's Head tells the story of incredibly promising but cruel scientific experiments close to horror.

Another famous writer-futurist is Arthur C. Clarke. In his novel "2001: A Space Odyssey" written in 1968 he made the following predictions that came true. Firstly, in the novel, he predicted asteroid number 7794 to be discovered in 1997. In fact, the asteroid 7794 Sanvito was discovered on January 15, 1996. Secondly, at the time of writing the novel, eleven moons of Jupiter were known. In 2001 (this is when the novel is set), it was known that Jupiter had 28 satellites, while Clark spoke about 36 ones. As for 2022, we have 79 Jupiter's moons now. Thirdly, he described a vertical landing of the rocket's first stage back to the Earth for re-launches after inspection and refueling. The idea was implemented on December 22, 2015, on the Falcon 9 rocket.

In the essay "The Space Station: For Radio Applications", 1945, Clark substantiated the use of geostationary orbit, located in a defined distance above the Earth's surface, which paved the way to communication satellites development. He was an enthusiast of space technology and interstellar travel, and came up with this idea based on his military experience: he served in the Royal Air Force and was engaged in special radio communications and radars.

These were the authors of the science fiction novels forecasting technological advances. We would also like to mention the foreseen appearance of the such inventions as credit cards and the Internet.




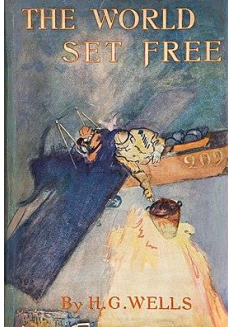

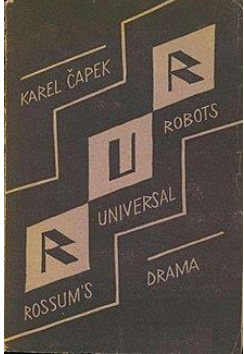
Edward Bellamy, an American author, predicted the credit cards wide use in his book "Looking Backward" in 1888, and the first bank cards appeared in the middle of the XX century.




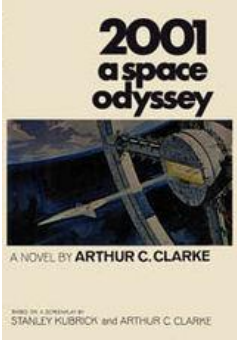
An American writer Mark Twain can hardly be called a science fiction writer in the classical sense of the word. Nevertheless, he created several works of fiction, and among them there is the short story "From the London Times for 1904", written in 1898. The writer called the invention, which had all the features of the modern Internet the "teleelectroscope", or world telephone. The hero of the story Clayton gets it at his disposal, and this is what he could do: "The device was taken out and

connected to the international telephone network. Now Clayton called day and night to all corners of the globe, looked at the life there, observed various outlandish spectacles, talked to people, and thanks to this wonderful invention it seemed to him that he had grown wings, and he could fly wherever he wanted.” So are we, happy to have the Internet now.

In our essay, we talked about novels. We presented novels and authors who predicted the future. We have clearly seen that there really are many plays and novels where the authors really predicted the future. It remains something like a mystery whether the authors are really clairvoyants. But the fact remains that the works have been written for a long time, read till now, and the events described have happened.

### Appendix

<p>Jules Gabriel Verne “Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea”</p>		 <p>"Nautilus" in the representation of the artist Neville</p>
<p>H. G. Wells "The Liberated World"</p>		 <p>The cover of the book "The Liberated World"</p>
<p>Karel Chapek “R.U.R.”</p>		

		Cover for "R.U.R."
<p>Alexander Romanovich Belyaev "Professor Dowell's Head"</p>		 <p>Transplantation of the dog 's head by V. Demikhov on January 13 , 1959</p>
<p>Arthur C. Clarke "2001: A Space Odyssey"</p>		 <p>Cover of the first edition "2001: A Space Odyssey"</p>

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