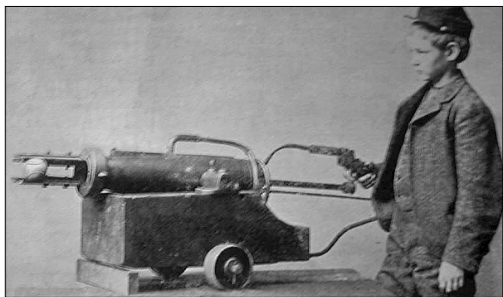


"The Princeton Gun"

Charles Hinton, a British mathematics instructor and chair of the math department at Princeton University and noted for his research in the "fourth dimension," is *unofficially* credited with inventing the first pitching machine. His first design resembles a catapult and is unveiled in front of "300 Princeton men" on March 18, 1897. This design, however proves disappointing as it could not throw accurately or consistently enough and is considered a failure.



Undaunted, Hinton's next design resembles that of a rifle, or some may say, a cannon. According to one source, "It occurred to him that practically whenever men wished to impel a ball with velocity and precision, they drove it out of a tube with powder."

Hinton had essentially designed a baseball cannon.



The "Princeton Gun" utilizes gunpowder, which proves unpredictable and dangerous. Hinton says that the hardest part of his design is creating a curve ball.

Reportedly, the "cannon pitching machine" leads to several injuries among Princeton players and ultimately his dismissal from Princeton.