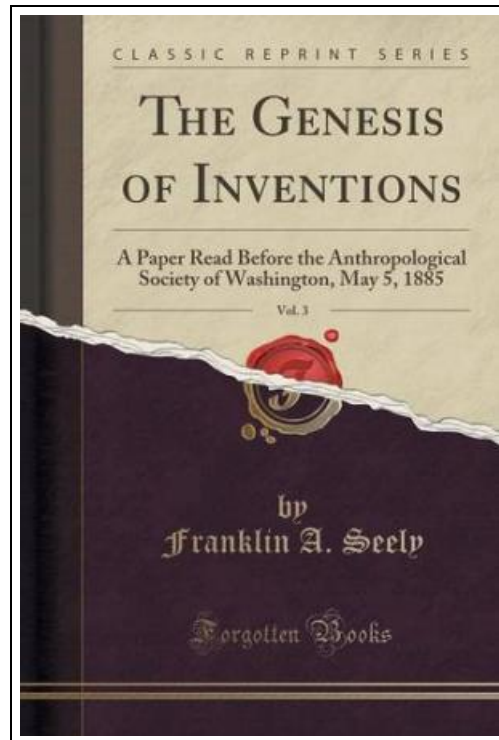


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Genesis of Inventions, Vol. 3: A Paper Read Before the Anthropological Society of Washington, May 5, 1885 I conceive that these inquiries are best pursued in connection with mechanical inventions. A parallel inquiry might be pursued in respect to inventions in the broader sense. In fact the study of savage society is, to a certain extent, such an inquiry. Before proceeding to the consideration of the subject, it is important to call attention to the various meanings and shades of meaning of the word invention, which we have such constant occasion to employ. A late writer on Patent Law refers to this in his opening chapter as a source of much confusion, since, as he remarks, it is not uncommon to find the word used in different senses in the same paragraph, even in the same sentence. He distinguishes four meanings of the word: (1) The mental act of inventing. (2) The thing invented. (3) The fact that an invention has been made. (4) The faculty or quality of invention. It is scarcely necessary to illustrate these significations, since on a little reflection they become apparent. We may say of the sewing machine, it was the invention of Howe, referring to the mental process which produced it; we may say it is a great or useful invention, meaning the machine itself; we may say the invention of it revolutionized the manufacture of clothing, in which we mean the fact that it was made; and we may say of any particular form presented to us, there is no invention in it over some earlier form, in which we refer to the quality of invention as...



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