

Historical Highlight

Early Technical Drawings Become More Refined

The figure shows further development of technical drawings compared to the drawing shown in the Historical Perspective in Chapter 5. This is a drawing of a *trébuchet*, which was a stone-throwing machine used in warfare. The drawing is dated from about 1450 and shows a very important development in technical drawing; the recognition that objects farther away appear to be smaller than the nearer objects. The drawing almost looks like a perspective drawing but it is not. A *trébuchet* was a very large machine, often up to 30 feet high, so the view is not a natural one. This might very well be an important stage that paved the way for perspective drawings.

The drawing shows quite distinctly various parts laid out horizontally and vertically to show lengths and heights. Other parts are drawn smaller and raised up to depict depth. This drawing represents the last stage in development from simply drawing obvious attributes. True shapes have been progressively replaced by apparent shapes until the drawing is almost like the view of a real object as seen through a window.

Excerpted from *The History of Engineering Drawing*, by Jeffrey Booker, Chatto & Windus, London, England, 1963.