1. Record Nr. UNINA9910964817603321 Autore Petroski Henry Titolo An engineer's alphabet : gleanings from the softer side of a profession // Henry Petroski Cambridge: ,: Cambridge University Press, , 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa 1-107-23007-1 **ISBN** 1-139-18006-1 1-283-38420-5 1-139-18984-0 9786613384201 1-139-18853-4 1-139-18391-5 1-139-19113-6 1-139-18623-X 1-139-05751-0 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (viii, 360 pages): digital, PDF file(s) Classificazione TEC009000 601 Disciplina Soggetti Engineering - Philosophy Technology - Philosophy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Cover; AN ENGINEER'S ALPHABET; Other Books by the Author; Title; Copyright; To Stephen and Laura; Preface; A; abbreviations.; acronyms.; "alphabet of the engineer."; ancient engineering.; applied science.; architects vs. engineers.; arm waving.; artist-engineers.; asphalt cookies.; B; back of the envelope.; backups and redundancy.; badges of engineering societies.; bents and bridges.; biographies of engineers.; books by and about engineers.; David Billington.; Eugene Ferguson.; James Kip Finch.; Samuel Florman.; Richard Meehan.; Walter Vincenti.; Richard G.Weingardt.; Engineers' Dreams. The Great Bridge. The Soul of a New Machine.; bridge-building contests.; bug.; C; calculators.; Centennial of Engineering.; cheers of

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J. A. L. Waddell.father-and-son engineers.; The Lighthouse Stevensons.; fight songs for engineers.; financial engineering.; FIRST.; founder societies.; French tradition in engineering.; G; gentlemen and engineers.; G.I. Bill.; glass half full.; Grand Challenges.; Greatest Britons.; Greatest Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century.; "a great profession."; H; hairy-eared engineer.; half-life of technical skills.; hard hat.; heroic engineers.; highway numbering system.; historic engineering landmarks.; history and engineering.; history of technology.; honor societies.

hubris in engineering.I; image of engineers.; imagineering.; industrial design.; industry.; infrastructure.; insight in engineering.; intuition in engineering.; inventions without necessity.; invention vs. innovation.; inventors.; Iron Bridge.; iron ring.; J; jokes about engineers.; joylessness of engineering.; K; keys of honor societies.; L; land-grant institutions.; land surveying.; LAND SURVEYING; letters after an engineer's name.; C.E.; C.Eng.; D.E.E.; D.Sc.; E.I.T.; F.Eng.; M.E.; M.I.C.E.; N.A.E.; P.E.; P.Eng.; S.E.; letters and numerals.; liberal education.; libraries.

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## Sommario/riassunto

Written by America's most famous engineering storyteller and educator, this abecedarium is one engineer's selection of thoughts, quotations, anecdotes, facts, trivia and arcana relating to the practice, history, culture and traditions of his profession. The entries reflect decades of reading, writing, talking and thinking about engineers and engineering, and range from brief essays to lists of great engineering achievements. This work is organized alphabetically and more like a dictionary than an encyclopedia. It is not intended to be read from first page to last, but rather to be dipped into, here and there, as the mood strikes the reader. In time, it is hoped, this book should become the source to which readers go first when they encounter a vague or obscure reference to the softer side of engineering.