Jacques Besson Encyclopedia Article

Jacques Besson

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Jacques Besson

1540-1576

French mathematician and inventor who was Leonardo da Vinci's successor as engineer to the French court. Around 1568, Besson devised his best-known invention, the first useable screw cutting lathe. In 1569, the inventor published a book on mechanical arts entitled *Theatrum Instrumentorum et Machinarum*, which included illustrations of his various machines. Besson also developed an improved vertical water mill, the principles of which were applied to a power turbine installed in the mid-1800s in waterworks throughout Europe.