

Pebbles to Computers

A Canadian photographic exhibition illustrating how contemporary technological achievements have evolved from the creative genius of human cultures from around the world, is being exhibited throughout ASEAN.

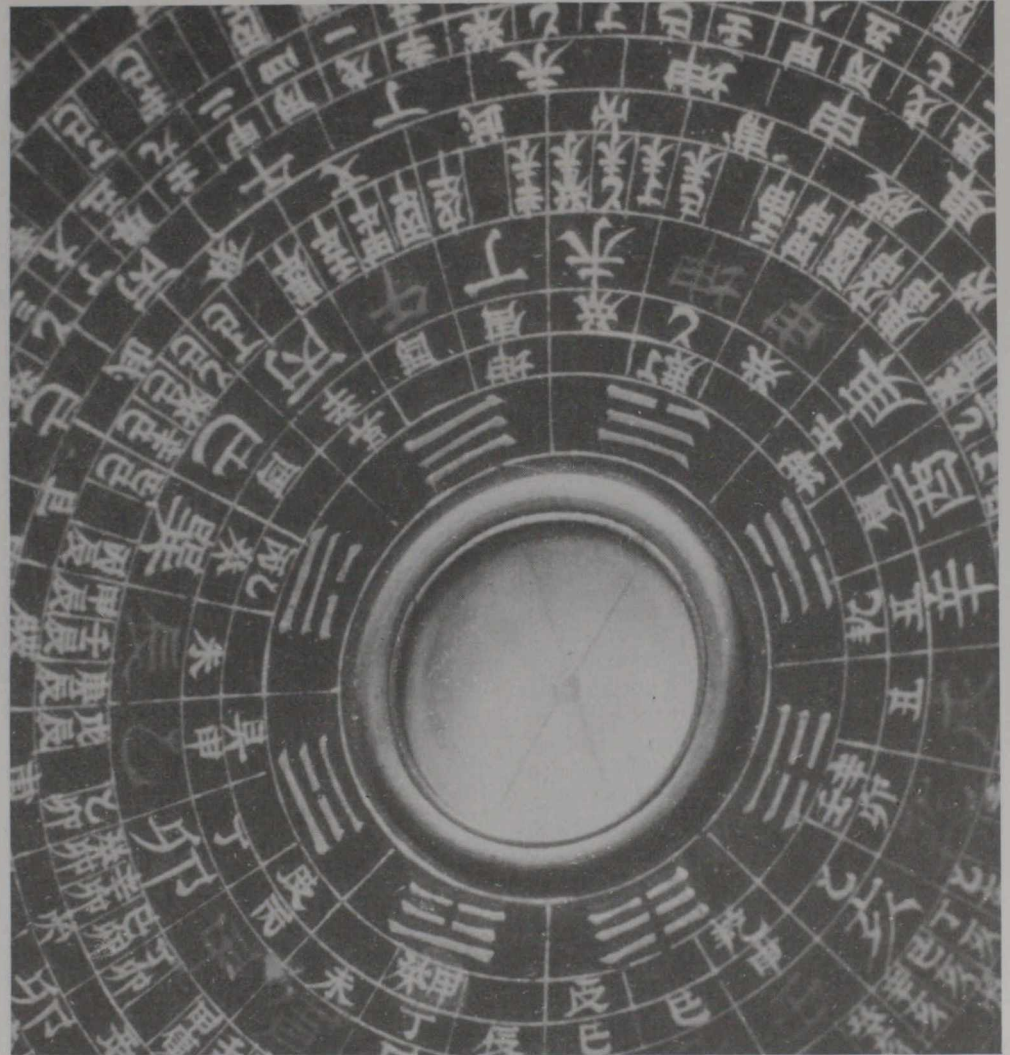
Known as "Pebbles to Computers," the display shows how the simplest computation devices of ancient times can be directly linked to the modern technologies currently revolutionizing the world. The collection also highlights Canada's important contribution to the development of modern communication and computer technologies.

Photographic history

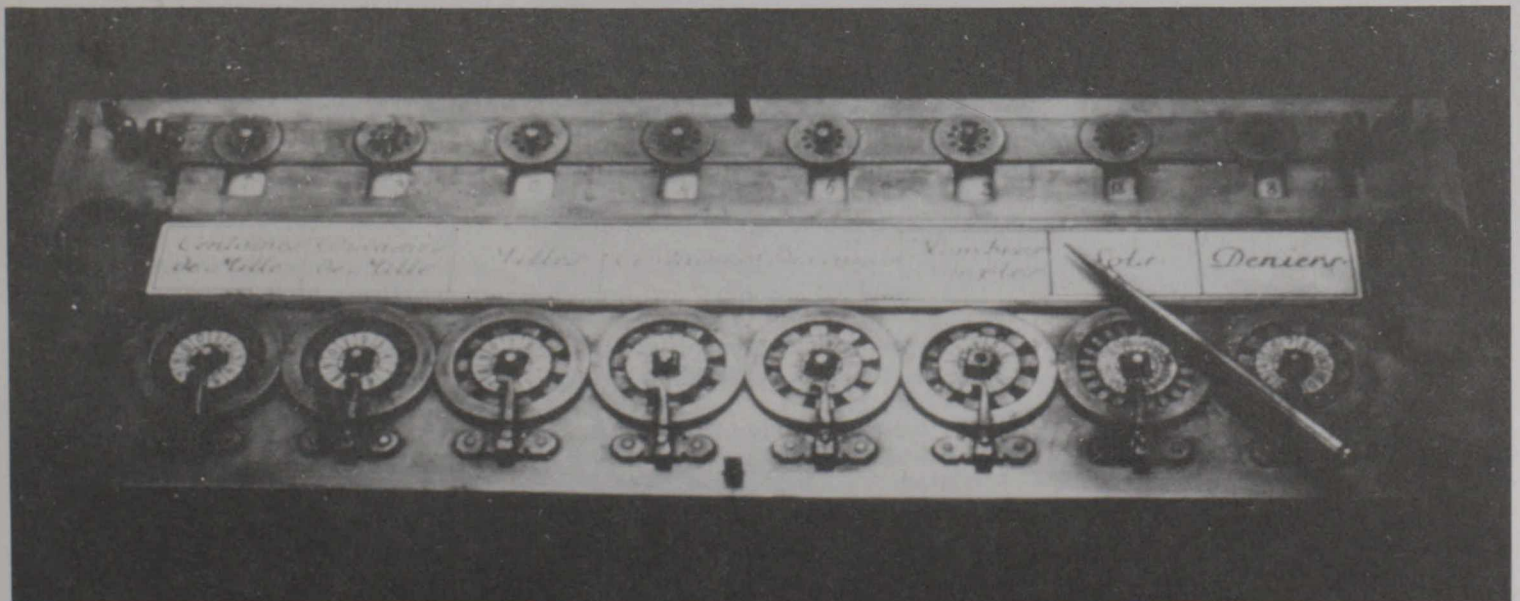
"Pebbles to Computers" is the work of Hans Blohm, a German-born Canadian. Mr. Blohm travelled the world for six years to compile a photographic history of the relationship between human culture and technological advancement.

From the pebble computer, used by the ancients 5,000 years ago, to man's first adding machine, invented by Blaise Pascal in the 17th century, and to the mathematical puzzles of Stonehenge's "stone computer", and the millenia-old abacus, Mr. Blohm has succeeded in capturing striking images depicting the evolution of computer technology through the ages.

This exhibit, first opened in Ottawa, in 1984, was recently in Bangkok. It is on display at the Singapore Science Centre until early December. From Singapore, "Pebbles to Computers" will be taken to Indonesia.



The Chinese are credited with the invention of the compass. This superb example, the Chinese Geomancer's Compass, shows the union of physical and spiritual concerns, characterizing the Chinese world view.



French philosopher and mathematician, Blaise Pascal, (1623-1662) invented this adding machine to help his father Etienne, a tax collector, reduce the drudgery of his calculations.