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BRAD BRADFORD

was a B-29 navigator in World War II. A Princeton history major, he was a United Press reporter and managing editor of two small-city newspapers before working thirty-one years at the *Kalamazoo Gazette* in Michigan. As city editor and ATEX computer system leader, Bradford led its newsroom into the digital age. He currently lives in Illinois.

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

THIS EXAMINATION OF TECHNOLOGY EXPLORES HOW THE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPANSION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVER TIME HAS UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER WITHIN MAJOR CIVILIZATIONS.

In the Bible, God's first gift to man isn't a lesson about how to make a fire or fashion a needle, a knife, or a spear. He first blesses him with language. Even before He takes Adam's rib to make Eve, He tells Adam to name every living creature. Adam immediately understands God's words and enunciates his own.

Anthropologists say that our ancestors had been more prey than predator for millions of years before mastering speech and language about fifty thousand years ago. That set Homo sapiens apart from all other species.

Hummingbirds, songbirds, and parrots all produce learned songs. The honeybee finds food, heads back to the hive, then dances on the wall in circles or straight lines to point others to where it's been.

Other birds and beasts make sounds to attract, threaten, or alert each other. Many possess other marvelous skills, such as the ability to navigate across thousands of miles or a sense of smell that penetrates a mile or more.

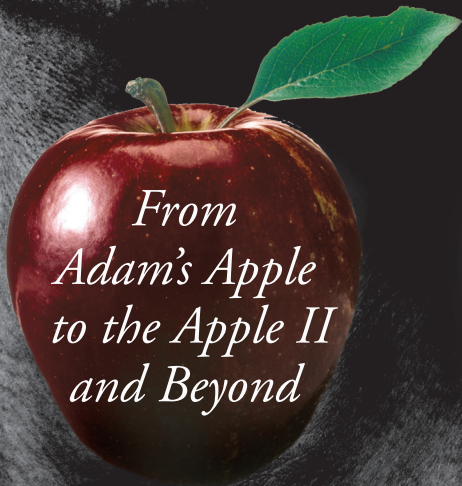
But only we humans open our mouths and emit intelligible sounds that empower us to share so many types of knowledge.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TALES

Brad Bradford

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TALES

BRAD BRADFORD



Early in recorded human history, the literacy rate was as low as one percent, and reading materials were available to only the elite. How times have changed! In **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TALES**, author Brad Bradford chronicles these changes, documenting how technology growth continues to change the world, upsetting the balance of power on almost every continent.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TALES recaps the history of speech, languages, writing, and memory and describes how these revolutions paved the way for today's age of cyberspace. He shows how history may be repeating itself as knowledge-sharing information technology such as Facebook and Twitter have a global effect.

Bradford presents an information technology trail that includes concepts such as the following:

- Water monkeys may have been our ancestors.
- Fearsome Mongol warriors played a positive role in the rise of Western Civilization.
- Hindus in India and the Arabs unveiled long-hidden numerical tools needed for modern science to emerge in the West.
- Interchangeable parts appear more than four centuries before Eli Whitney won his historic patent to manufacture muskets with them.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TALES imparts stories revolving around the wonders of the written word and shows the role technology has played in the rise of past civilizations.

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