

# Who invented color television?

Just about everybody had a hand in the job, including Ben Franklin, the Russians, and the ancient Greeks.

IF YOU had the idea that some horny-handed inventor took a fistful of wires into his barn and came out months later with a television set, just take a look at the chart below. Many men "invented" television, and the new color sets are the fruit of a family tree that goes back two centuries to that well-known inventor Benjamin Franklin. It could be traced back even before Thales of Miletus, who studied static electricity 2,500 years ago.

Actual television—pictures transmitted over some distance—began right after the electric telegraph. In 1862 the Abbé Caselli sent a drawing by wire from Amiens to Paris. By 1884 Paul Nipkow patented a

whirling-disk scanning device for cameras and receivers. It led to a hectic, short-lived television industry in the late 1920s—with 15 stations in the U.S. alone. Even transatlantic television, which most people still consider a dream of the future, has already been accomplished. In 1928 John Baird transmitted a woman's image—live—from London to New York.

But mechanical TV was too crude. It took the delicate touch of an all-electronic system, thought up by a Russian, Boris Rosing, in 1907 and later developed to practicality by the many men in many countries, to give us the magic color window on the world we now enjoy.

