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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- The Delights of the Slide Rule -- Lighting Calculations Lightened -- Like the Poor, the Harmonics Will Always Be With Us -- The Inner Satisfaction That Comes With Each Use of the Alignment Chart -- The Appearance of a Neatly Finished Box -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Although it is popularly assumed that the history of computing before the second half of the 20th century was unimportant, in fact the Industrial Revolution was made possible and even sustained by a parallel revolution in computing technology. An examination and historiographical assessment of key developments helps to show how the era of modern electronic computing proceeded from a continual computing revolution that had arisen during the mechanical and the electrical ages. This unique volume introduces the history of computing during the "first" (steam) and "second" (electricity) segments of the Industrial Revolution, revealing how this history was pivotal to the emergence of electronic computing and what many historians see as signifying a shift to a post-industrial society. It delves into critical developments before the electronic era, focusing on those of the mechanical era (from the emergence of the steam engine to that of the electric power network) and the electrical era (from the emergence of the electric power network to that of electronic computing). In so doing, it provides due attention to the demarcations between—and associated classifications of—artifacts for calculation during these respective eras. In turn, it emphasizes the history of comparisons

between these artifacts. Topics and Features: motivates exposition through a firm historiographical argument of important developments explores the history of the slide rule and its use in the context of electrification examines the roles of analyzers, graphs, and a whole range of computing artifacts hitherto placed under the allegedly inferior class of analog computers shows how the analog and the digital are really inseparable, with perceptions thereof depending on either a full or a restricted view of the computing process investigates socially situated comparisons of computing history, including the effects of a political economy of computing (one that takes into account cost and ownership of computing artifacts) assesses concealment of analog-machine labor through encasement ("black-boxing") Historians of computing, as well as those of technology and science (especially, energy), will find this well-argued and presented history of calculation and computation in the mechanical and electrical eras an indispensable resource. The work is a natural textbook companion for history of computing courses, and will also appeal to the broader readership of curious computer scientists and engineers, as well as those who generally just have a yearn to learn the contextual background to the current digital age.