

# OS Award 2009

*For outstanding contributions to the world community involved with slide rules and historical calculating instruments.*

1. **Werner Girbardt and Werner Schmidt, Greifswald, Germany**
2. **Mike Konshak, Louisville CO, USA**
3. **Werner Rudowski, Bochum, Germany**

1. **Werner Girbardt, since 1969 technician at the Institute for Mathematics und Informatics, Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität, Greifswald and Werner Schmidt, Prof. Dr.; Professor for Numerical Analysis at the Institute for Mathematics und Informatics, Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität, Greifswald**

Girbardt and Schmidt have contributed much in Germany on an international/national level in organizing 4 symposia (incl. IM 2006 and 2009) at the University of Greifswald, being the only meeting on academic ground in the world. All their symposia were filled with high quality lectures, presentations and exhibitions and were perfectly organized.

Whereas Werner Girbardt was visible as the organizer, Werner Schmidt was the good ghost behind all the symposia and Werner Girbardt's activities. As mentor he always provided support whenever required. In 2002 they have edited a paper about "The Locke Brunnhuber Calculator".

Since 1980 they have collected many calculating instruments and created their beautiful university museum – Rechentechnische Sammlung – and achieved the survival of that collection after the reunion of the Germanies. By making the collection available to the public they acted as multipliers for calculating techniques.

Werner Girbardt and Werner Schmidt can be considered as pioneers in keeping historical calculating techniques alive, not only in the former GDR, but for the whole of the Eastern European countries and have invested a lot of private energy.

They have created an on-line catalogue of the museum exhibits of slide rules and other calculating instruments at: <http://www.uni-greifswald.de/~wwwmathe/RTS/> containing a wealth of information.

2. **Michael (Mike) V. Konshak, Product Development Engineer and Oughtred Society Webmaster:**

Mike has had a strong influence in the world of slide rule collecting and education with three major efforts.

- a. Mike has been the webmaster for the Oughtred Society for the last two years and has been instrumental in making that site the beautiful site it is.

- b. Mike's own website – International Slide Rule Museum - is becoming a landmark in that he is attempting to document all slide rules, manuals and ephemera of all time on the site. <http://www.sliderulemuseum.com>
- c. The third and most important effort of Mike's is his Slide Rules for Schools program. Mike has single handedly with very little support initiated a program to provide groups of slide rules to teachers for classroom use. He has written a suggested curriculum to be used with the rule. This single handed effort has become the model for the Oughtred Society board in trying to further slide rules and mathematics teaching in schools.

### **3. Werner Rudowski, Dipl.-Ing.; Retired Engineer**

Werner Rudowski has researched deeply (mainly English and German historical 17th to 19th century slide rules), resulting in high quality ground-breaking publications for in the JOS, Skid Stick and the SR Gazette as well as for the RST and Proceedings. Since 2004 he wrote 29 papers.

In order to generate interest in SR and related topics, Werner R. organized several presentations and lectures for the public,

Recently, he initiated discussions about the continuation of teaching logarithms in school.

He was active in German national meetings, the last one – very well attended - in spring 2008 in Bochum, his hometown was organized by him.

All his activities were accompanied and supported by his wife Inge, who started publishing well accepted articles (3 in the SR Gazette).

## **OS Fellowship 2009**

***For substantial contributions to the Oughtred Society  
or to National Organizations.***

- 1. Don Black (very OS involved),**  
being the long term Associated Editor for the Journal of the Oughtred Society thus quasi a member of the OS
- 2. Robert Adams (Member since 2002),**  
for his written contributions and activities on the internet
- 3. Ronald van Riet (Member since 2006),**  
for his written contributions
- 4. Jürgen Nestler (Member since 1992),**  
for his written contributions and organizing Slide Rule Exhibitions in Lahr (hometown of Nestler Slide Rules) and Landes Museum für Arbeit und Technik in Mannheim

