
“Pocketbook of the Gauge Marks”
by Panagiotis Venetsianos
Gift to Members of the Oughtred Society

Otto E. van Poelje

What is the difference between a slide rule and a table of physical & mathematical constants?

First the similarity: slide rules also have constants imprinted, the so-called “gauge marks”. Of the many differences, an outstanding one is that a constant on the slide rule is immediately available for use in a calculation. Unit conversion is one of the possible applications, but many other ingenious factors have been invented to ease specific calculations. An individual slide rule may have a small number of constants – excepting specials like for instance the chemical rule bearing quite some elements from the Periodic System. However, many slide rules collectively make up a substantial book of constants. And that is exactly what *Panagiotis Venetsianos* has achieved over the more than 10 years that he is collecting gauge marks.

For collectors and connoisseurs alike, this booklet is a goldmine of information, to understand and appreciate the sometimes cryptic icons on their slide rules. The elegant design of cross-referencing tables for gauge mark names and their numerical values -with explanations- allows an easy answer to any question on the gauge marks.

The Oughtred Society considers this work important enough to have this booklet produced in print for the members of the Society.

We sincerely hope that the reader will benefit from this vade mecum, the *“Pocketbook of the Gauge Marks”*.

The text above describes the gift that all members of the Oughtred Society have received with this second issue of the Journal in 2006.

Every new member of The Oughtred Society will also receive the *“Pocketbook of the Gauge Marks”* as a welcome present from the Society in 2007, or beyond while stock permits.