## A brief section on Slide Rule History

In the 16th century, engineering design as we know today - with its emphasis on precise measurements and finely calculated tolerances was unthinkable. And yet, every scientist, mathematician and alchemist felt there were basic mathematical relationships that underpinned the natural world.



Pickett N600-ES. USA, 1960s.These accompanied the astronauts on board five Apollo moon flights.

In 1614, John Napier created an elegant way to perform and simplify calculations through "logarithms." In the 1620s, William Oughtred, an obscure self-taught mathematician, discovered that he could quickly perform mathematical operations using two logarithmic rules. The slide rule was born. Through the mid 20th century, the slide rule was the most useful device any engineer, scientist or mathematician could have.

Slide rules or mechanical calulators were created over the recent centuries for the subjects of atomic fallout, physics, alcohol gauging, valve sizing, electronics, warfare, accounting; covering everything from air conditioning and humidity to radiation counters and surveying. The Oughtred Society 9 Stephens Ct. Roseville, CA 95678

#### Interested in Slide Rules?



## About the Oughtred Society

The Oughtred Society was founded in 1991 by a group of like-minded slide rule collectors. The original intent of the Society was to provide a venue for the exchange of information about slide rules. Thus, *The Journal of the Oughtred Society* was born. We are affiliated with other organizations in Great Britain, Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland.



"New" Calculating Machine. USA, 1877. One of the first American calculators. Invented by George B. Grant.

The Society currently has more than 400 members and is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the history and preservation of slide rules and other calculating instruments. Society goals include the dissemination and sharing of information about slide rules and calculators, and encouragement for collectors.

#### **Benefits of Membership**

You will annually receive two editions of The Journal of The Oughtred Society (JOS). This internationally acclaimed journal is considered the most authoritative source on slide rules and mechanical calculators. Each issue contains a wealth of information about makes and makers, models, uses, history and much more. Members are encouraged to submit articles.



Devco Slide-Cyl-Pencil. USA, 1940s. The pocket clip doubles as the indicator.

Back issues of the JOS, from 1991 to present, can be ordered. You will regularly receive an updated Members Directory, a great resource for locating and communicating with other collectors, dealers and aficionados. From time to time domestic faceto-face or online ZOOM-style meetings will be held where members and non-members can exchange information, display items from their collections and meet with fellow collectors. At such meetings but only for members, there is opportunity to take part in an auction. Many kinds of slide rules and calculators are auctioned off, from the everyday to the rare.



# Faber Castell 2/83N. Germany, 1960s. One of the largest slide rules made with the most number of colors.

## **Membership Application**

Interested in slide rules or calculators? Join the Oughtred Society to learn more of the science and lore of these unique mathematical instruments. From addiators and comptometers to ordinary slide and chemistry rules, all are of interest to the Society.



"Star" Slide Rule Cigarette Lighter. Japan, 1950s.



William Oughtred

Membership rates are \$35.00 for Domestic (USA) or \$65.00 for International (Non-USA). Details of how to join and pay (online or by cheque) can be found on our website - https:// www.oughtred.org/index.shtml .

For more information please contact: oughtredsociety@comcast.net