

IM 2011 to Be Held in USA at MIT Campus in Cambridge, MA



The International Meeting of Collectors of Historical Calculating Instruments (IM 2011) will be hosted by the Oughtred Society at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 23-25, 2011. For the first time, the meeting will be held in the USA. As you know, these meetings have traditionally been held in Europe, with The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Germany generally rotating as the host country, with occasional hosting by other European countries. The Oughtred Society takes great pride and pleasure in hosting this event in the USA in 2011, the 20th anniversary year of the founding of the Society.

The meeting will be held at the MIT Campus and MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA with the theme “European Roots of American Slide Rules ... or “From the Old World to the New” with the subtheme, “Technology Advances from the Old World to the New”. These meetings involve a large amount of preparation and it is very impressive how the European collecting groups seamlessly organize and conduct their meetings every year and pass the baton from site to site. Each host sets an increasingly higher standard of excellence, and of course, a basic element in the success of these programs has been the papers that are selected and presented. We have an excellent venue in Cambridge, with both the MIT and Harvard Museums on site, so the stage is set for a very successful International Meeting this year.

There will be opportunities for those attending to investigate MIT’s extensive collection of Keuffel and Esser slide rules, many prototypes and important early models, with Curator Deborah Douglas, and to explore the MIT campus. The MIT museums also include an extensive collection of other important slide rules and calculating devices. A tour of the Harvard University scientific instrument museum is also being planned, which includes an example of a very early circular slide rule by William Oughtred among many other important scientific and historical artifacts. In addition, opportunities to tour several significant historic sites in the Boston area are also in the planning stage.

Our *Proceedings* Chairperson for IM 2011 is Oughtred Society President Emeritus Tom Wyman. Having attended many of the International Meetings since their inception, Tom is an ideal choice for this position. With the assistance of IM 2011 Meeting Coordinator Kate Matthews and MIT Science and Technology Museum Curator Deborah Douglas, we will be coordinating IM 2011 with the formal exhibition opening of The K&E Collection, including the numerous slide rules in the K&E slide rule research cabinet, at the MIT Museum.

Proposals and abstracts by authors for papers to be presented at the conference are being accepted for IM 2011. Please contact Tom Wyman at ellenandtom@sbcglobal.net.