

OS Winter Meeting Attendees Bask in California Sunshine Herb Gold, Meeting Chairman

The 2012 Oughtred Society Winter Meeting convened at the Autry National Center in Griffith Park, Los Angeles on February 25th. After a Continental breakfast, Richard Smith Hughes enlightened the group with another of his outstanding presentations. *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Specialized Slide Rules for Scientists and Engineers* covered a wide range. The good include the Shanghai for cubic equations and the Blundell Harling Black Body Radiation rule; the bad and the ugly included the Sun-Hemmi 266 Electronic and Faber-Castell “Elektro”, with many examples in between. Although most of his listeners had never seen the comparatively rare slide rules described, Richard illustrated them well and provided an understanding of their purposes as well as their strengths and weaknesses.

There were thirty tables filled with slide rules, calculating instruments, drafting tools, and literature. Several attendees brought old, rare, and unusual slide rules for display only, but most were for sale at reasonable prices, which led to a very lively auction. Dick Rose, our auctioneer, managed the bidding with authority and good humor. Two Fuller spiral calculators in very nice condition changed hands and new homes were found for a rare Otis King, along with many fine books and slide rules. Following the auction, many un-auctioned items were also sold in a flurry of commercial activity.

There was ample opportunity for attendees and their family to tour the Autry museum, with a wonderful collection of Western artifacts including a spectacular collection of Colt pistols.

The night before the meeting many of the group dined at the Burbank Daily Grill. After the meal, the crowd was entertained by our own Norm Goldblatt, who has been doing standup comedy for almost 30 years. He had a receptive audience for his satirical humor that proudly poked fun at our math and science interests and heightened level of “geekdom”.

Once again, the Oughtred Society provided the opportunity for us to indulge our collecting mania, our interest in math and science, and socialize with a great group of like-minded folks.



Tom Wyman's SSSS display of "Seldom Seen Slip Sticks" included English excise rules and an early 19th century American slide rule.

