

 THE  
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SOCIETY

# Newsletter

April 1, 2014

A Tribute to Tom Wyman .....



Tom Wyman, who served as our first Oughtred Society president from 1997 to 2007, passed away in Palo Alto, CA on March 17, at the age of 86. Tom became suddenly ill on the morning of March 10 from a brain aneurysm and passed away after a short hospital stay. Tom is survived by his wife, Ellen, daughter Susan, son Tom, and four grandchildren. A memorial service will take place on April 18 at 11AM at Lucie Stern Community Center Ballroom, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. We all have known Tom as an expert and mentor in many areas of slide rules research and collecting but he was also very actively involved in many local civic issues and was a very special champion and benefactor of the Palo Alto Libraries. His accomplishments include Oughtred Society past president and author of numerous articles on the subject of slide rules, Palo Alto Historical Association, past president, Palo Alto History Museum board member, member Friends of the Palo Alto Library, Palo Alto Plan Advisory Committee, Associate of the School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University, and many others too numerous to list here.

In 2001, Tom and Ellen were awarded the “City of Palo Alto Community Star Award”. Shortly after, in 2005, both were also honored with the Avenidas Lifetime Achievement Award for their outstanding community service. Several articles have recently appeared in the Palo Alto newspapers after Tom’s death, honoring Tom and Ellen for all of the drive and effort that they successfully put towards



fighting against high rise urbanization of Palo Alto in order to protect its small town environment. One story noted that Tom, the engineer, built a scale model of a proposed 19-story hospital building along with the surrounding 1- and 2- story buildings to highlight the contrast and lack of visual appeal ....and was successful in getting the proposal overturned. Yes, that certainly sounds like the Tom we all know!

Tom moved to Palo Alto from a mining community in Tennessee in 1936. He grew up in Palo Alto attending the local elementary and middle schools and Palo Alto High School. After studying at San Jose State for two years, Tom joined the US Navy, touring the Pacific on the USS Lexington aircraft carrier. Upon his return he completed his education at Stanford University where he studied mining engineering and geology. After spending some time in mining, Tom went on to work in the oil fields



in Texas, solidly learning that business and eventually became an oil executive for Chevron, where he worked for 42 years. He and Ellen married in 1955, and in 1960 was transferred to the Alaskan oil fields, then to San Francisco, and finally back to Palo Alto in 1964 where they raised their son and daughter.

Both Tom and Ellen shared a love of California “Arts and Craft” ceramic tile made from 1910 through 1935 and many examples can be found displayed throughout their home.

Tom's loved writing articles about rules and collecting examples, especially from two of his favorite areas: early boxwood slide rules and rules that were used in the textile industry. His presence and influence at our Board Meetings, our regular collector meetings, and at the International Meetings will be very greatly missed. One of the newspaper articles noted that Tom's interest in slide rule collecting was spurred by finding a particularly elaborate set of slide rules in a bombed out shipping complex in Tokyo Bay during World War II, a new and interesting fact that was certainly not known to me. His expertise in research and publication is reflected in his over 80 entries into our Journal. We will miss him very keenly and we have certainly all lost a good friend and mentor. To end this tribute on a happy note as Tom would certainly want, we can take comfort in knowing that we can continue to enjoy his company even now, given the huge legacy that he has left with us by remembering his publications, generous friendship, and his sharing of research and knowledge.

*Tribute by Bob Decesaris; Tom Wyman photo by Norbert von der Groeben/Palo Alto Weekly, 2005*

### Report on the Winter OS Meeting: March 1, 2014 in Las Vegas .....



The March 1, 2014 Oughtred Society Meeting took place at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada. Approximately 28 OS members, from 13 states and three countries, plus several spouses and invited student guests from the Univ. Nevada, Las Vegas attended. Four speakers made presentations:

1) Professor Bernard Zygelman of UNLV spoke about John Napier on this, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Napier's publication about logarithms. 2) Richard Smith Hughes showed and described a variety of specialty slide rules, commenting on their practical usefulness. 3) Professor Joe Pasquale of UC San Diego presented a discussion of the underlying principles of slide rules, noting that logarithmic scales are only one of many types of scales for which slide rules are useful. 4) Peter Holland, OS member from Germany, discussed the recent 2013 international slide rule meeting, IM2013, held in Berlin. He also discussed IM2014, to be held September 5-7 in Delft, The Netherlands.

Following the formal presentations there was the usual time for viewing displays and items to be auctioned in the afternoon. The 2:30 auction, conducted by auctioneer extraordinaire, Bob Koppany, was fun for all. Included in the sales were an Aristo Federfix (JOS 19.1), a Mauser, a Kodak projection rule, a 1908 Dennert and Pape, a very early Hazen Williams hydraulic rule, a metal Japanese rule, a Vade Mecum rule (OS Rarities Gallery), a Post 1451 pocket Versatrig, a Dempster RotaRule with magnifier, a rare (& early) Stebbing 12-inch Gunter rule, and many others.



During the meeting, Clark McCoy made the first announcement of the availability of a complete set of past Journals of the Oughtred Society on a single DVD, ten of which were sold at the meeting. Further information about purchasing the JOS DVD will be found on the OS web site. Clark also brought his collection of rare Pickett slide rules for us to enjoy. Following the meeting on Sunday morning, sixteen attendees took advantage of a specially-arranged Hoover Dam tour.

The meeting was a great success for all. Special thanks are deserved by Dick Rose and his wife Sandy for going the extra mile (s) to put this meeting together from their home far away in Ohio, and to the meeting co-chair, Ted Hume for his leadership in the conduct of the meeting;; to Bill Robinson, who helped with the initial meeting planning;; to Kate Matthews, who suggested that Joe Pasquale address the meeting and arranged for the video recording of his talk; to Clark McCoy for all of his coordination through his OS responsibilities; to Bob Koppany for his



wonderful auctioneering; to Mike Konshak and Jodie Hobson for their help with getting the meeting information on the OS web site; to David Sweetman for all of his great ideas; to Peter Holland (Germany), Bob Adams (Australia), and Riki Nakamoto (Hawaii), who came the farthest to be with us; and, in Riki's case, for his annual gift of macadamia nuts; to Walter Shawlee, who, though he couldn't be with us, sent a slide rule gift for each attendee; to OS president, Bob De Cesaris, President of the Oughtred Society, who took time from his tight schedule to be with us; and to our four excellent speakers, Bernard Zygelman, Richard Smith Hughes, Joe Pasquale, and Peter Holland.

*Information from Dick Rose, Meeting Chairman; edited by your OS Newsletter editor*

### Oughtred Society Journals Now Available on DVD .....



All past issues of the Journal of the Oughtred Society are now available in digital format on a DVD. The new DVD archive contains all Journal issues published since vol. 0, no. 0 in 1991. The DVD also includes three special publications: *The Slide Rule*, a reprint of the booklet published by Edwin Thacher; *Slide Rules in K&E Catalogs*, by Bruce Babcock; and *A Slide Rule Bibliography*, by Peter M. Hopp. Individual journals are presented as PDF files at high resolution. Price (including postage) for all OS members: \$95. Yearly updates for OS members will also be available for \$10. To order a DVD go to the OS website and click on the **Journal page** and pay for the disk via Paypal.

*Information from the OS web site as edited by your OS Newsletter editor*

### News from the Dutch Kring .....



International Meeting IM2014 – Preparations are in Full Swing. . . . Preparations by the Dutch KRING for the international conference IM2014 in Delft, September 5-6, are progressing.

Accommodations in the hotel “HAMPSHIRE – Delft Centre” have been arranged. The second day presentations will be given in a period auditorium in the

old building of the former Mining Engineering faculty of the Technical University Delft. Registration of participants has started: you can see all details on the KRING website [www.rekenlinialen.org](http://www.rekenlinialen.org), by clicking the small image of an engraving of the 1649 Delft city map from the atlas of Dutch city maps by J. Blaeu:



*Report from Otto van Poelje*

### From the UK Slide Rule Circle .....

We are looking forward to the UKSRC Spring meeting which is being held, as usual, in a member's home at the beginning of April. We are also well into the preparations for the publication of our 15th Autumn Gazette which this year will be a “bumper” issue celebrating the Quadricentenary of the publication of Napier's groundbreaking *Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis descriptio*, the 400th anniversary of John Napier's publication relating to his invention of logarithms in Edinburgh in 1614. Apart from Napier related articles, there are many other articles covering our usual field of collecting in general and slide rules in particular.. *Peter Hopp reporting.*

### In Memoriam: Alex Green .....



Alex Green's work as a physicist, professor and inventor will live long beyond his years. His slide rules significantly impacted the outcome of World War II, and his research in renewable energy led to the founding of Green Liquid Gas and Technologies.

Those who knew him say he was usually ahead of his time — delving into research years before the rest of the world caught up.

On Wednesday, 12 March 2014, the 94-year-old former graduate research professor at the University of Florida died at Haven Hospice after a short battle with advanced melanoma. His daughter, Marcia Green, said her father would attribute his greatest accomplishments to the slide rules he developed in World War II.

Green became fascinated by physics, electronics, and slide rules at Brooklyn Technical High School. His academic background included a bachelor's in physics from the City College of New York (1940), a master's from the California Institute of Technology (1941), and a doctorate in nuclear physics from the University of Cincinnati (1948).

Green received his first slide rule when he was 15. As an Operations Analyst in the China-Burma-India Theatre during World War II, Alex was based out of Kharagpur, India where he developed specialized slide rules to solve technical problems related to B-29 bombing raids for General LeMay. He participated in one of the longest and most hazardous B-29 missions, which found and destroyed ships in the missing Japanese fleet, including sighting the battleship Yamato. Alex was recognized by President Truman with a Medal of Freedom.

Approximately 15 years ago, he was contacted by the IJzebrand Schuitema of the Oughtred Society regarding his World War II slide rules and began expanding and displaying his slide rule collection, including an 8-foot teaching slide rule, at Collector's Day at the Florida Museum of Natural History. The Journal of the Oughtred Society has published several articles by Alex about his slide rules and calculating methods (all are in the Journal archive DVD).

The invention of electronic calculators turned slide rules into historical museum pieces, but Green felt the tools still held a major advantage. Alex met and married Freda Kaplowitz in Kingston, NY shortly after the war. In 1953, the growing family moved to Tallahassee, where Alex expanded the Nuclear Program at Florida State University and spent a year at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In 1959, Alex became Chief of Physics for Convair General Dynamics, in San Diego. Alex became a graduate research professor at the University of Florida in 1963, a position he would hold for 40 years before retiring. As a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, and nuclear and radiological engineering, Green's work focused on alternative fuels, fuel consumption, and how to make the best use of fuels available domestically. His research led to the invention of a machine that burns bio-waste such as wood, food, and manure to produce liquid, gas, and bio-char energy sources that are deoxygenated to give them greater energy output. He patented the design in 1998 and formed Green Liquid and Gas Technologies.

Green Liquid Gas and Technologies has been a Sweet 16 finalist all four years of the Cade Museum Prize, designed to help move an innovative Florida-based products or services to market. The company made the Final Four last year.

Green is survived by his wife of 67 years, Freda; a son, Bruce; and three daughters, Deborah, Marcia, and Tammy.

***Reported by David Sweetman***

**New Oughtred Society Members in March are .....**

Steven Welch, Seattle, WA

John Cole, Morgantown, WV

Thomas Wetmore, Newburyport, MA

Johannes Kaminski, Bonn, Germany

**Welcome to the Oughtred Society!**

***Clark McCoy, Membership Secretary, reporting***

**Reminder to Renew Membership in the Oughtred Society .....**

Visit the [Oughtred Society](http://www.oughtred.org) website and select Membership in the main menu.

**Upcoming articles in the Spring 2014 (Vol 23.1) Journal .....**

- *B47 Slide Rule* by Bill Robinson
- *Chisel Cursors* by Clay Castleberry
- *Clark & Company* by Tom Wyman
- *Combined Slide Rules* by Panagiotis Venetsianos
- *HP Commemorative Calculators* by Otto van Poelje
- *Moinot's Stadia* by Richard Hughes

- *Paper Excise Rule* by Tom Wyman
- *Station Pointer* by Robert Sauer
- *UNIS - France: A collective Trade Mark* by Panagiotis Venetsianos
- *Writing - My Take* by Tom Wyman

#### **Notable sales on eBay in March 2014 .....**

Ebay is a widely used source by OS members for buying (and selling) slide rules. At any one time, more than 6000 slide rules are posted for sale. Most do not get bids that result in a sale because of poor condition, being too common or being over priced. Still, in March, there were 42 gems that made it into collections. Each month your Newsletter editor searches through eBay sales for the gems that make collectors happy. Those listed below are notable for the month of March. .... Your editor is also aware that there are OS members that sell slide rules from their web sites. I will feature their websites in future issues of this newsletter.

#### **US Makers:**

- \$100 Pickett Model 14 military slide rule
- \$102 K&E Jet Log Duplex Decitrig #68-1251 slide rule
- \$108 [POST Versalog II #1460 slide rule](#)
- \$111 Pickett Marine Fuel N808-T Slide Rule
- \$132 K&E model 68-1130 Deci-Lon pocket slide rule
- \$140 K&E model 4160 Chemist's slide rule
- \$150 K&E 68-1100 Deci-Lon slide rule
- \$152 Gilson Atlas Circular Slide Rule
- \$182 Pickett Douglas Sky Rule
- \$200 Pickett N4P-ES Dual Base Speed Slide Rule
- \$200 Keuffel & Esser model 4061T Slide Rule
- \$204 Pickett N-525-ES StatRule
- \$238 Pickett Hydraulic slide rule, model N906-T
- \$260 Keuffel & Esser model 4093-5 Log Log Vector 20-inch Slide
- \$321 Pickett N1010-ES 4-ft classroom instruction slide rule
- \$456 Boykin Model 510 RotaRule NIB

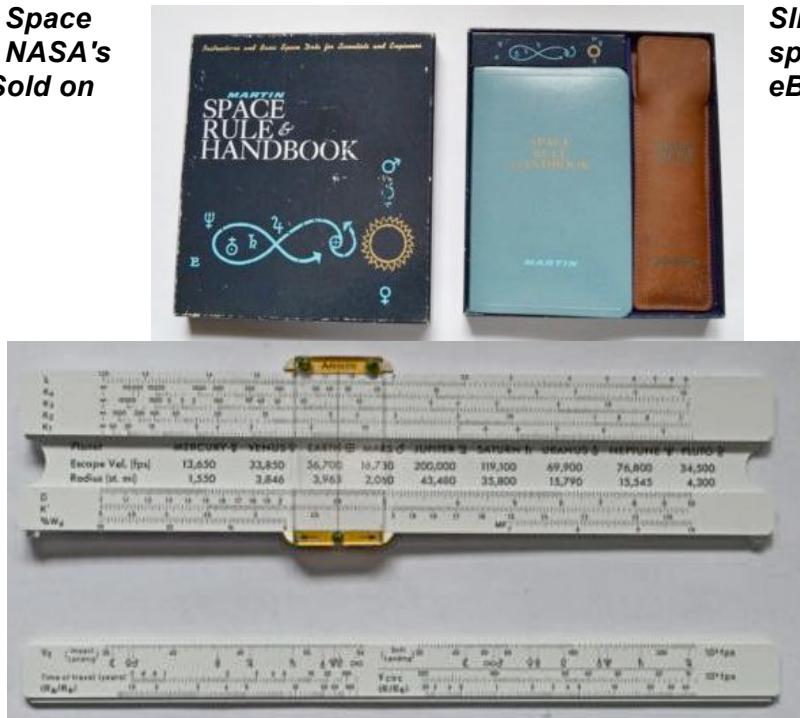
#### **European Makers:**

- \$110 Fowler's Universal slide rule in presentation case
- \$112 Faber Castell TR2 digital calculator one side & slide rule other side
- \$115 Bémerö Logarléc 78810 20-inch Artillery Slide Rule
- \$126 Aristo model 971 Hyperbolog slide rule
- \$142 Otis King model K with red barrel
- \$175 Jackson Brothers Mannheim slide rule with 2 sided chisel cursor.
- \$204 Fullers Spiral Cylindrical Slide Rule - c1917
- \$215 Troeger cylindrical slide rule Klienes (small) Format, Model #4
- \$220 Dring & Fage Boxwood and Brass 2-slide customs slide rule
- \$300 Dennert & Pape Hazen-Williams Hydraulic slide rule (sold at March Las Vegas meeting)
- \$306 Fowler's Magnum Long Scale circular slide rule
- \$310 French Lejard Brass Surveyor's Slide Rule in Wood Box
- \$343 Cook boxwood and brass 2-slide customs slide rule
- \$358 Dring & Fag customs slide rule in bone
- \$390 Edwards 4-sided brewery slide rule
- \$398 Fuller cylindrical slide rule; no.1, s/n 13327, 1967
- \$424 Mechanical Engineer Pocket watch Circular Slide Rule
- \$579 Faber Castell model 2/84 Mathema slide rule
- \$875 Martin Space Slide Rule, Aristo 80123 with original box, case and instruction book, made for the Martin Co, and NASA in 1962.

#### **Asian Makers:**

- \$102 Hemmi Versalog model 341 3012 Slide Rule
- \$118 Sun Hemmi model 157 (occupied Japan) duplex slide rule
- \$175 Haiou Pai (Seagull) model 6531 slide rule
- \$184 Sun hemmi No. 269 Civil engineer slide rule
- \$355 Sun Hemmi No. 266 Electronics slide rule with case and manual
- \$499 Sun Hemmi No. 279 slide rule (bid but did not make reserve)

**Aristo Martin Space  
no. 80123 for NASA's  
the planets. Sold on  
for \$875**



**Slide Rule model  
space missions to  
eBay on March 3**

*Ed Chamberlain, your Newsletter editor, reporting*

### On The Lighter Side .....

*From Vol. 0, No. 0, October 1991 of the Journal of the Oughtred Society*

#### The first Letters to the Editor.

Dear Editors:

I had a chance to look at an advanced copy of your rag, and it has some problems. For instance, who the heck is this egomaniac by the name of Bob Otnes who seems to have written too much of the darn thing?

A. Pismo Clam

Dear Gentle Reader:

The "rag" you are holding in your hand is a prototype of what is hoped to be a work participated in by all and any who are interested in the art. Please to take your pen or pencil out of the shirt pocket, and rip off an article on your choice of fascinating topic. We are waiting.

the Editors

Dear Editors:

Please, none of this fancy stuff. I want to see more ads, swaps, meetings, and all that. I want to find out where the dealers are, and where the action is.

Advaanced Collector

#### Also from JOS v.0, n.0

#### Advertisements

WANTED: Nystrom slide rule in fine condition. Have 500 Lawrence Engineering rules to trade for it. Bob Otnes.

SERVICE: Send me ten of your favorite slide rules, and I will glue them to masonite and run them through my jigsaw and produce the gol-darndest puzzle you ever saw! Reasonable. Write to Henry Aldinger for an estimate.

WANTED: Paying \$10,000 for any Pickett slide rule made before 1920. Rodger Shepherd.

FOR SALE: Mounting brackets to attach a slide rule to Harley Davidson handlebars. Slide while you ride! \$30. Bruce Reichelt.

FOR SALE: Have available a large crate of WWII vintage slide rules from Los Alamos. They are somewhat radioactive, but this small defect is counter balanced by ease of reading in the dark. Don Hudson.

Dear Gentle Reader,

Thank you very much for your input. We  
are trying.

the Editors

**Editor's Notes .....**

Please send contributions to me by the 25th of the month. Make your messages short. Short contributions can be made longer without taking up page space by adding a link.

*Ed Chamberlain, Editor of the OS Newsletter*

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