

Newsletter

February /March, 2016

From Your Newsletter Editor - Ed Chamberlain



Note that this issue of The Oughtred Society Newsletter covers the months of February & March, 2016.

Note that in May there will be a meeting in Las Vegas featuring three talks and a sale of more of Tom Wyman's famous slide rule collection. The meeting will be held at the Atomic Testing Museum. Up to date details are given below. I look forward to seeing a large crowd of OS slide rule collectors at the meeting.

The second meeting this year is gathering momentum. For the first time, our Italian friends will be hosting the international meeting — this one IM2016. The venue for IM2016 will be in a spectacularly modern museum, the Science Museum (MuSe) of Trento. The theme of the meeting is: *Someone's Trash is our Treasure: The Collector as a Preserver of Material Culture.*

Trento is in northern Italy in the foothills of the Dolomite Mountains. Trento (Trent in English) is an old town long predating its conquest by the Romans in the first century BC. Padua and Venice are just a little more than a two-hour drive by auto from Trento, so it will be easy to combine IM2016 with visits to other special places in Italy



I have received some sad news. Our British slide rule collector friend and *"Slide Rule Gazette"* coeditor– Colin Barnes - passed away on Friday, April 8th, just as this newsletter was going to press. More details will be published by the UK Slide Rule Circle and the Oughtred Society shortly.

Thanks to David Rance, I also learned of the passing of Count Anton-Wolfgang von Faber-Castell on January 21, 2016. More details of this most gracious man from Stein, Germany follow below. I was fortunate to meet him in Stein where he and the Faber-Castell firm hosted IM1997 at the Faber-Castell Castle.

Colin Barnes

We do not have a message from Bob DeCesaris, our OS president, in this issue of the Newsletter. He is on an extended business trip at this time. However, Bob asked me to encourage members to attend the Las Vegas meeting, and remind all that there will be some very nice items from Tom Wyman's collection up for auction.

Finally, I want to encourage all OS members to join the UKSRC and subscribe to its annual publication – "*The Slide Rule Gazette.*" Colin Barnes ably collaborated with Peter Hopp for many years to put this fine journal together. Along with your UKSRC membership, you will get their Newsletter: "*Skidstick*", ably written and edited by Peter Hopp. More details follow later in this newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Oughtred Society Spring Meeting-May 7, 2016 [stp]

The Oughtred Society's Annual Meeting for 2016 will be held in Las Vegas, NV, on May 7, 2016. This Spring Meeting will combine the Winter Meeting and the June Annual Meeting traditionally held in the Bay Area. We will not be holding a meeting in the Bay Area in June, so mark your calendars and make plans to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 07, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Atomic Testing Museum. The Museum is located just 1.3 miles east of the Las Vegas "Strip" on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Four Points by Sheraton Las Vegas East Flamingo at a special OS rate of \$89/night for the nights of May 6 and May 7. A limited number of rooms were set aside. Check with the hotel at (702) 473-6400 to find out if there are still rooms available at our special rate.

An optional dinner will be held on both Friday and Saturday evenings at the hotel in a private room with a fine selection of food supplied by Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. Cost will be \$30/person for each dinner. These dinners have been popular at past meetings with lots of interaction and discussions! **Please make your reservation for each dinner as soon as possible.**

This meeting is open to Oughtred Society members and non-members. You do not need to be a member of The Oughtred Society to attend, but participation in the auction does require membership. Registration for the meeting is only \$45 and an Oughtred Society membership is only \$35. Details follow below.



All attendees are encouraged, but not required, to bring slide rules and/or calculators to display and to sell or trade.The meeting will feature displays of slide rule collections, an auction, buying, selling and swapping, three live presentations and the opportunity to meet and talk with fellow slide rule enthusiasts, many of whom are experts in their areas of interest. *Items from the Thomas Wyman collection*

will also be offered at the auction. A list of items was sent to OS members on April 14th.

Registration for Spring Meeting in Las Vegas

The meeting registration fee is \$45. The registration fee is used to pay meeting expenses ... meeting room rent, refreshments, tables, etc. The optional dinners (at \$30 per person per evening) may also be paid for along with the registration fee. Please try to register and pay for your dinners before the meeting so we can plan and order food and spaces.

You may register for the meeting by clicking on :

< http://www.oughtred.org/SpringMeeting_2016.shtml#register>

Or you also may register by postal mail and send your fee(s) by check or money order to:

The Oughtred Society 9 Stephens Court Roseville, CA 95678

Please indicate that you are registering for the Spring Meeting, Las Vegas, May 07, 2016. Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you an Email of acknowledgement. After you register, we will send you a meeting packet containing complete detailed information and a list of attendees. Additional details of the Las Vegas meeting will be sent via email to Oughtred Society members. If you have any questions or suggestions please Email us at:

<secretary@oughtred.org>

Reported by Richard Davis and Bob DeCesaris

<u>ANNOUNCEMENT: International Meeting of Historical Calculating</u> <u>Instruments – IM 2016 will be held in northern Italy, 16-18 September 2016</u>



IM2016 will be hosted at the Science Museum (MuSe) of Trento (<u>www.muse.it</u>). The Italian office machines collectors group (<u>www.ufficiodepoca.it</u>) are co-sponsoring the meeting, together with Italian members of The Oughtred Society. Nicola Marras has taken the lead in organizing this meeting.

The theme of IM2016 is: *Someone's Trash is our Treasure: The Collector as a Preserver of Material Culture.* Contributions to this year's meeting should give reference to the provenance of the described objects. Analyses should also include some consideration of the relationship of early calculation techniques to current procedures, i.e., in times past, user manuals were the "programs" to be learned ("compiled") by man, and "executed" by hand (operating a crank or handle or sliding a wooden rule), and then noting the result. In the depths of today's computers, tablets, and smart phones, the underlying algorithms are invisible to the normal user. A mere button press delivers an immediate result. Antique procedures may therefore serve as a didactic methodology for explaining the internal functioning of modern devices. In addition to these recommendations, all kinds of contributions concerning traditional (non-electronic) calculation devices are welcome. As in previous meetings, short articles (for example, "one-offs" or "posters"), are invited. These could present an opportunity for newcomers to join the established historic calculating instruments collector's community.

The comparison of extinct species to the extinct technology of mechanical calculating devices led to the idea of reconsidering these historical calculation-related artifacts, putting the main emphasis, not on the achievements of past technology, but on the **material culture, taking into account the historical context** that makes these artifacts worthy to be collected, analyzed, and used to explain the evolution of material culture. Consequently, the actual collector, who often lived and worked with these instruments, may be considered as having the same perspective as a paleontologist who digs for fossil remains or an archaeologist who searches for human artifacts. Some collectors already have their collectibles at home; others have had to rummage in forgotten cellars and flea markets. What someone has discarded becomes the collector's treasure.

For our European friends, support for correct the English style will be provided by volunteer native English speakers. **The deadline for submission of papers is 30 June 2016.** All contributions will

be printed in a Proceedings and recorded on a CD. Please send contributions to:

<mailto:oughtredsociety.italy@gmail.com>

in *.doc format and A4 page size with high-resolution (\geq 300 dpi) photos. For additional information, the official meeting website will be:

<<u>http://im2016.eu</u>> or on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/oughtreditaly</u>.

REGISTRATION DETAILS: The registration fee is 175 Euro if paid by May 31st. A gala dinner will also be held for an additional 50 Euro. An additional **50 Euro** will get you a TrentoRovereto Card that allows free entry to all museums and unlimited use of buses and trains in the city. **NOTE THE MAY 31ST DEADLINE FOR THE REGULAR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS. USE ONE OF THE ABOVE LINKS TO MAKE YOUR REGISTRATION AND HOTEL PAYMENTS.**

HOTEL DETAILS: The conference hotel NH Trento (<u>www.nh-hotels.it/hotel/nh-trento</u>) is nearby the MuSe in a new district, featuring the architecture of Renzo Piano (<u>http://lealbere.it/ilquartiere</u>). This is a 4-star Hotel with rooms at preferential prices. The hotel may host parts of the meeting; however, the main meetings will be at the MuSe. Trento's historic city center is within a 15-minute walk of the MuSe, where other accommodations can be found, such as the Aquila d'Oro (<u>www.aquiladoro.it</u>) and the Grand Hotel Trento (<u>www.grandhoteltrento.com</u>). **RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL TRENTO, AT THE CONFERENCE RATE OF 90 EURO/DAY, SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE LINKS:**

<<u>http://im2016.eu</u>> or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oughtreditaly



The city of Trento (<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trento</u>) is located 90 km from the Verona airport, 150 km from Venice, and 35 km from Lake Garda. The main highway - Autostrada del Brennero (Brenner Highway, A22 north, or E45 south), and fast trains facilitate access from north and south. A number of Alpine tourist and historical attractions in the surrounding areas suggest that a longer stay will be entertaining and educational.

Reported by Nicola Marras with help from David Sweetman & Ed Chamberlain

The Spring and Fall 2016 OS Journals



David Sweetman reported that the *Spring, 2016 issue of the OS Journal* has been sent to OS members that have paid their membership fee. Below is a list of the articles and their authors. Note that there are six papers about Louis Ross and his slide rules. The paper by David Lee Ingram includes a discussion of the Ross Meridiograph circular slide rule. The other five papers are about Ross and his Precision and Rapid slide rules, and are authored or co-authored by Ed Chamberlain and Richard Davis. Note that Ed and Richard try to solve the mystery of look-a-like circular slide rules: the Louis Ross Rapid Computer

and the John Ross Dempster RotaRule.

Technical Papers in the Spring 2016 Issue of the Journal of the Oughtred Society

Slide Rule Problems The Ross MERIDI-O-GRAPH for Surveying The Ross Precision Computer The Ross Rapid Computer Gary Flom David Lee Ingram Edwin J. Chamberlain W. Richard Davis

The Ross Student Rapid Computer	W. Richard Davis
A Biography of Louis Ross	Edwin J. Chamberlain
The Ross Rapid Computer/Dempster RotaRule Mystery!	Edwin J. Chamberlain and
	W. Richard Davis
Pencil Slide Rules—Part 5: The Digital Transition	Rodger Shepherd
The Gerber Derivimeter	Paul McConnell
New to Slide Rules in the 21st Century	Phil Rodley
Recommended Reading: Napier Tercentenary Mem. Vol.	David Sweetman

David reports that the *Fall, 2016 issue of the OS Journal* is also in good shape with a full compliment of papers committed. The titles and authors are below:

World's Largest Bibliography	Detlef Zerfowski
Damien Slide Rules	Ian Lodge
Crompton-Gallagher: Boiler Efficiency Calculator	Stephan Weiss
Tavernier-Gravet Slide Rules	Marc Thomas
A Poor Man's Collection	Roger Dollarhide
The Hemmi 154	Richard Hughes
More on Sterling Adders	David Riches
The Kally Slide Rule	Nathan Zeldes
Slide Rules Made in Spain	Jose G. Fernández

David reports that he also has a good start for the **Spring, 2017 issue**. Authors are encouraged to contact David Sweetman at: <u>d-dsweetman@att.net</u> with proposals for additional papers. *Reported by David Sweetman*

Report from Membership Secretary: Clark McCoy



The OS membership renewal has gone very well this year. As of the end of March, we are at 350 members for the year. This is an all time high in my memory for this time of year. The Spring issue of the Journal usually only goes out to the approximately 250 members that have normally renewed by this time.

The following are the new members for Feb and March:

8-Feb-16	John Aurand, Edgewood, NM
10-Feb-16	Mindy Hansen, Las Vegas, NV
10-Feb-16	Robert Schlotte, Normon, OK
12-Feb-16	Giuseppe Bianchi, Capannori, Italy
23-Feb-16	Ace Hoffman, Carlsbad, CA
1-Mar-16	Ted Llewellyn, Rochester, NY
3-Mar-16	Cesare Baj Cernobbio, Italy
7-Mar-16	Octver Caswell, Detroit, MI

Welcome to The Oughtred Society. Congratulations to our new members. We hope that you enjoy the rewards of your OS membership, and encourage you join in The Oughtred Society activities.

REMINDER: To old members, if you have not renewed your membership yet, it is easy to do. Make sure that you get the Spring issue of the Journal of the Oughtred Society at the time it is first issued, which is very soon. The type has been set and sent to the printer. To renew your membership, just go to the Oughtred Society homepage at:

<http://www.oughtred.org/>

and click on **''Membership''** and follow instructions. You can pay online by Credit card or PayPal, or you can pay by check the old fashioned way.

Reported by Clark McCoy

Membership in the UK Slide Rule Circle



All collectors of slide rules and other old calculating devices are invited to join the UKSRC. Just go to the web site at <u>http://uksrc.org.uk/</u> and navigate to the Skidstick and Slide Rule Gazette tabs for additional information. Membership includes the Skidstick which is issued several times per year. Membership costs 18 BP per year, and the annual Gazette costs an additional 22 BP a year for International subscribers. The Brits and Europeans pay a bit less. Payments can be made via PayPal.

Reported by Peter Hopp & Ed Chamberlain

News from The German Deutschsprachigen Rechenschieber-Sammler



Peter Holland reported that the German speaking slide rule collectors will meet at the university in Jena, Germany on April 23rd. The *Universität Jena* is one of the oldest universities in Germany. It was founded in 1558, well before the slide rule was invented. Jena is also home of the world famous Zeiss Optical Company, and is located in east-central Germany near Leipzig. Peter reported

that 24 collectors from The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Germany have registered for the meeting. The program includes some lectures and a swap meet. They will also discuss the place and date for the International Meeting in 2017. More details will be reported in the next issue of the OS Newsletter.

Reported by Peter Holland

News of the Passing of Count Anton-Wolfgang von Faber-Castell.....



From the Faber-Castel internet site, there was this announcement: "Stein, 22.01.2016. The eighth-generation family entrepreneur died after a severe illness on Thursday, 21st of January, surrounded by his family in Houston, USA. He lived to the age of 74.

Count Anton-Wolfgang von Faber-Castell leaves his wife Mary and four grown up children. Under his leadership that lasted almost 40 years the global company Faber-Castell has advanced to an international premium brand as well as one of the leading producers of cosmetic pencils. Until the very end his work and his passion was directed towards his family, the company and his employees. The management and staff mourn a model businessman, whom we all admired as an extraordinary entrepreneur and a farsighted personality, and who above all was a role model as a fellow human being to us."

To slide rule collectors, Faber and later Faber-Castell was the premium brand of slide rules in Germany. The firm Faber was a pioneer in slide rule development and production.

Reported by David Rance & Ed Chamberlain

Some eBay Slide Rule Sales in December and January

EBay Sales For February and March

Below is a listing of eBay slide rule sales for items sold for \$100 and above. It was an especially good period for slide rule sales. Prices seem to be up for scarcer items. I have limited the listing to sales of \$100 and above because there were so many sold for \$100 and below that they would have added several pages to these listings. Note that some of the scarcer or unique slide rules are featured with greater detail and photos. The reader can search eBay for slide rules sold by using its 'Advanced Search' mode. Limit the search to items sold, and set the price range.

US Slide Rules (38 sold for a total of about \$11,188)

K&E 4013 Thacher Cylindrical Calculator, s/n2661, w/ box, magnifier & instructions.\$1,650K&E 4012 Thacher Cylindrical Calculator, model 1740, s/n 744, late 1800's.\$1,400



K & E Cox Duplex Slide Rule, German Silver?, 1891 patent, scales: A [B C] D / A [BI C] D, rare metal version (seller in Australia; Buy-It-Now sale). **\$676**

K&E 4012 Thacher Cylindrical Calculator, model 1740, s/n 4133.	\$676
Dempster RotaRule Slide Rule, case but no magnifier.	\$530
K&E Thachers Calculating Instrument, model 4012, s/n 5781 (well used).	\$450
K&E Analon Slide Rule, model. 68 1400, near mint.	\$380
Pickett Slide Rule Model N18ES, w/ box and instructions.	\$361
Pickett N4-ES Vector Log Log Dual Base slide rule, MIB.	\$340



EGG Nuclear Bomb Effects Computer, Circular Slide Rule.

\$315

Gerber Graph Analogue slide rule W/case, key and instruction manual		\$270
K&E Analon slide rule, model 68-1400, with leather case.	2 Sold for	\$229 & \$250
Pickett N-525-ES Statistics slide rule, model N525ES, box, case & ma	nual.	\$250
K&E Deci-Lon slide rule, w/ box, manual & case.		\$220
Pickett Circular slide rule, model 110-ES. Two examples sold.		\$125 & \$218
Pickett Model 600-ES Dual Base pocket slide rule w/ leather case, etc.	, MIB.	\$202
K&E Chemist's slide rule.		\$168
Pickett N-16ES Electronics slide rule.		\$165
Pickett model 109ES circular slide rule.		\$164
K&E 4081-5 20" LL duplex slide rule with leather case.		\$160
Pickett model 111ES circular slide rule.		\$160
K&E N4096 Merchant's slide rule and wood box. Early version.		\$149
K&E #68-1200, LL duplex, 20" slide rule.		\$147
Pickett N3P-ES slide rule, Power Log Exponential Log Log Dual Base	e.	\$134
Pickett N-16-ES Electronic Log Log Dual Base slide rule. 2 examp	ples sold a	t \$125 & \$130
Pickett 535-ES slide rule, MIB.		\$125
Pickett Model #4 Deci Log Log slide rule with vector scales.		\$124
K&E Deci-Lon slide rule, w/ box, manual & case.		\$122
Pickett 600-ES Union Carbide slide rule, w/ case, instructions & box.		\$120
Pickett N-16-ES Electronic Log Log Dual Base slide rule.	2 sold fo	or \$102 & \$119
K & E 68-1130 Pocket LL slide rule + instruction manual.	2 sold fo	r \$113 & \$115
K&E Chemist's slide rule, model #4160.		\$114
K&E Polyphase slide rule, model #4053-5, 20" slide rule.		\$110
K&E Merchants slide rule, Model #68-1749, in hinged hard case.		\$105

European Slide Rules (42 sold for total of \$12,589)

D&P MHR1 Cylindrical Position Line slide rule for U-Boat navigation, wood box.	\$1,250
Bradburn & Sons, Routledge engineers slide rule, 2-Fold Boxwood, Brass slide.	\$703
Tavernier-Gravet Slide Rule, 50-cm boxwood with metal cursor and wood box.	\$703
Savigny & Co. Gauging slide rule, two-side / two-side, 2.5" boxwood.	\$668
J. Stutchbury Fecit, London, four-side gauging slide rule, 18" boxwood.	\$500
Stanley Fuller Spiral Slide Rule; s/n 11,332, date: 1954, with wood box, Bakelite.	\$420
Stanley Fuller Spiral Slide Rule; s/n 2,809, date: 1910, with wood box.	\$420
Halden Calculex Pocket Calculator with case, & store box, near MIB.	\$395
E. Roberts Cove Ct. London, Gaugers Rule, 9-in, boxwood, 4-slides, early 1749-84.	\$381
A.W. Faber System Schumacher, Model 366 slide rule, digit registering indicator.	\$351
Dring and Fage Proof slide rule, 12", boxwood, 4-slides.	\$314
Halden Calculex Pocket Calculator with aluminum case.	\$297
E. Roberts Cove Ct. London, gaugers rule, 9-in, boxwood, 4-slides.	\$277



Dennert & Pape Slide Rule, 25 cm, mahogany, Brass '*Chisel Cursor*'. \$253



Barr & Stroud Inclinometer, Survey & Artillery Type S.L.2 No 58, Slide Rule

Most interesting cylindrical slide rule with special scale set for determining slope angle to a distant site. Made of copper, brass, aluminum and oak. Note that this instrument has a wood handle like a Fuller Calculator, but instead of spiral scales, it has 3 separate ring scales and one pointer scale. **\$234**

DOES ANY READER KNOW DETAILS OF HOW THIS DEVICE IS USED?



Stanley, Froude's Ship Displacement Slide Rule, 24" Boxwood with Chisel Cursor.Has scales for Hull Displacement, Weight & Length, Horse Power & Speed. See UKSlide Rule Gazette, Issue 3, for more details.Two sold for \$195 & \$225



Thornton PIC No.120 Slide Rulew/Magnifier & Case.\$225



Kern AARAU Surveyor's Slide Rule, 25-cm Metal Body & Metal Chisel Cursor. With Sin*Cos, TG, E*R Scales on Body and Angle Scale on Cursor, Swiss Made. **\$208**

24" Gunter scale made of boxwood, no maker's name.FC No. 8/10 Circular slide rule. Two examples.Grapholex 692b pocket Neperlog slide rule.Robinson Calculator, a circular slide rule for transmission line impedanceSupremathic Financial, Type 2 French circular slide rule.	\$170
Mark 11 Pilot Balloon slide rule.	\$164
FC 62/83N slide rule.	\$152
FC 2/83N slide rule.	\$150
Farmer'a #182 Spirit Rule; boxwood, 58-cm body & 64-cm slide.	\$149
ALRO #200R circular slide rule in metal case.	\$149
Loftus Gaugers & Ullage slide rule, 24" boxwood.	\$149
Dring & Fage Proof rule, 10" boxwood with bone slide.	\$145
FC 2/82 slide rule.	\$133
FC 2/82N slide rule.2Dring & Fage Excise slide rule, 2-slide, 2-side, boxwood.2Faber-Castell 310/80 Mentor Projektions-Rechenstab 52/80 slide rule.	2 sold at \$130 & \$133 \$130 \$130
Otis King Pocket Calculator, Cylindrical slide rule.	\$129
FC 2/82N slide rule.	\$128
Farmer's Spirit Rule; boxwood w/cursor.	\$126
J. A. Nichols & Co, Obs. Of Fire slide rule, all metal.	\$126
Halden Calculex pocket calculator with leather case.	\$122
Reeves Gaugers & Ullage slide rule, 12" Boxwood, 2-slides & 2-sides. Fowlers Long Scale Calculator in leather pouch.	\$122 \$118 \$114
Faber-Castell 4/98 Elektro slide rule, 20" scale, hard case.	\$114
Faber-Castell "4/38 Tachymeter slide rule, 20" scale, hard case.	\$114
Nestler #37a Electro Slide Rule, 20" scale & hard case.	\$114
Aristo #939 Stahlbeton Slide Rule for reinforced concrete.	\$113 sold for \$104 & \$112 \$110
ALRO System 200R circular slide rule in metal clamshell case	\$102



French Prototype, Handmade Slide Rule. Has pairs of scales with 2, 3 and 6 segments. Scales can be used for Square Root & Square, Cubic Root and Cube & for 6th Root and 6th power calculations. Paired scale sets can also be used for long scale calculations. The six section pair of scales (labeled 0 to 5 on bottom half of the slide and on the lower stator) is over 1-meter-long when the segments are stacked end to end. It can resolve results to about 4 digits. The operation is similar to that of the '*Anderson Improved Slide Rule*'. This example sold on French eBay.

Asian Slide Rules (8 sold for total of \$1535)

Hemmi #275 Electrical Hyperbolic duplex slide rule, 20".	\$308
Hemmi No.269 Civil Engineering duplex slide rule. (3 examples sold).	\$290
Hemmi Electrical Engineering duplex slide rule, model #153.	\$250
Chinese Flying Fish #1003 duplex slide rule with hyperbolic scales.	\$166
Flying Fish #1002 duplex slide rule w/haversine scales +, MIB.	\$150
Hemmi #64T slide rule.	\$135
Hemmi #257 Chemical Engineering slide rule.	\$120
Chinese Flying Fish No. 1004 Log Log Duplex slide rule with hyperbolic scales.	\$116

Reported by Ed Chamberlain

On The Humor Side



Here is a Bloom County cartoon depicting Bill Gates dreaming of returning to the days of the slide rule. Note that he sleeps with his trusty slide rule - Ookie ⁽²⁾ Credit to Bloom County by Berkeley Breathed, Feb. 16, 2016

Reported by Ed Chamberlain

..... Send Newsletter Contributions to: edwin_chamberlain@valley.net