



2012 Annual Meeting Mountain View, California

Tom Wyman

The Annual Meeting of the Oughtred Society was held on June 23, 2012 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California with President Bob De Cesaris presiding. He and the organization's current officers as well current board members were elected for another 12-month term. Clark McCoy, Membership Chairman, reported that the organization has 387 members including 23 new members and 116 international members. He reported on the successful sale of back issues of the *Journal of the Oughtred Society*. Bob Koppany was recognized for his work in helping to prepare for publication Curt Herzstark's autobiography that covers the development of the Curta calculator. The Board will take action regarding printing this book at the next Board meeting.

With 15 members present, meeting attendance was somewhat smaller than usual, due to schedule conflicts and illness of several regular attendees. However, there were a number of interesting displays of slide rules, calculators, and books. Bob De Cesaris displayed an assortment of Fowler pocket-watch slide rules. Tom Wyman's display labeled "SSSS" (Seldom Seen Slip Sticks) attracted the attention of attendees. Bob Otnes displayed a collection of American adders, which he was quick to point-out had nothing to do with serpents.



Bob De Cesaris' 15 year old daughter, Christina, was in attendance. She inspected all the displays and talked with attendees. She excels at math and science and is very interested in slide rules, of which she has a small collection.

Following a break for lunch, there was an opportunity for attendees to see the wide range of computers including some slide rules that are on display in the museum.

In the afternoon with auctioneer Bob Koppany presiding, a number of slide rules attracted bids in excess of \$100 and attendees went home with these and many bargains to add to their collections. A specimen of the first Pickett slide rule that the firm produced in 1945 was sold for \$60.



The meeting was adjourned and attendees were invited to the home of Tom and Ellen Wyman for a reception and dinner. Bob Otnes provided a desert chocolate cake adorned by a frosted replica of a K&E slide rule leading someone to say “this was an opportunity to eat your slide rule and have it too”. Overall, the meeting provided a good opportunity for attendees to renew friendships and to learn more about various slide rules and calculators as well as to catch up on slide rule happenings.

