



Serving Slide Rule Collectors and Historians since 1991

Robert De Cesaris
9611 Jorney Court
Granite Bay, CA 95746
Telephone 916 356 5769
robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com

Robert De Cesaris, President
Kate Matthews, Vice-President
Clark McCoy, Treasurer
Clark McCoy, Membership Secretary
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October 1, 2013

Dear Oughtred Society Members,

As we enter the second half of 2013, two very successful US meetings have been held this year, the Winter Meeting in Tucson AZ in February and the Oughtred Society Annual Meeting in Mountain View CA in June. The Winter Meeting, co-hosted by **Martha Prince** and **Richard Davis**, was held at the well-known Pima Air and Space Museum and featured two dinner gatherings. **Bill Robinson** entertained the audience with his experiences using slide rules to design the wings of the B-47 and B-52 bombers, working as a member of the wing design and analysis group at Boeing Aircraft, in Seattle WA. In addition, **Mike Konshak** brought an extensive display of calculating devices, covering mechanical and electronic examples, photos of which can be found in the 2013 Winter Meeting Report on our site.

Looking forward to the next big event, **IM2013, the International Meeting of Slide Rule and Mathematical Instrument Collectors**, will be hosted this year by the German RST in Berlin, Germany. This meeting will be held from Oct 11-13 at the Akademischer Verein Hütte, the residence of the oldest German engineering student union, located near the Technical University of Berlin. For additional details, please visit the IM2013 Registration Website linked to our site under Calendar of Events.

During the first half of this year, the Oughtred Society Board focused on updating the Society's Bylaws to better reflect our transition from a local Bay Area-based group of collectors to our current membership of over 400 US and international members. Board members' responsibilities have been updated to reflect this change and the process for the annual election of officers has been modified so that the entire membership can more easily participate.

Publication of our well-known Journal continues to be one of our Society's major priorities. Discovery of new calculating device examples, documentation and building on past research into historical calculating devices, and educating the scientific instrument collecting community and general public is a mainstay of our existence. Our Managing Editor, **David Sweetman**, working with Associate Editor **Otto van Poelje** and Assistant Editors **Steven Casey**, **Jim Joseph**, **Rod Lovett**, **Dennis Maack**, **Jerry McKenna**, **Riki**

Nakamoto, and **Cesar Quiroz**, along with our very important researchers and authors, continues to drive editing of our high quality publication. In addition, David has also assumed the position of Layout Editor from **Carl Strange** and has been working to further optimize the activities required for final publication. On behalf of the membership, I wish to express my sincere thanks to this team for a job well-done, and especially to David, for insuring that gaps are quickly discovered and handled and for working to improve the Journal production process. I also wish to thank Carl for his excellent work as Journal Layout Editor over the past several issues and **Ron Knapp** and **Rodger Shepherd** for their continuing involvement as Journal proof readers. Journal publication is one key area where additional membership assistance is very important and always welcome; I invite each and every one our members to consider volunteering a small amount of your time, even just a few hours a month, to provide your assistance to this effort. Finally, a very, very important thank you to **Conrad Schure** for his many years of service as OS Treasurer; Conrad will remain a member of the OS Board and the Treasurer's duties have been fully transferred to **Clark McCoy**, effective June 29, 2013.

In related events, we have again awarded two **Oughtred Society Scholarships** to two deserving college students interested in math, science, or engineering careers. **Ted Hume** continues to keep the membership informed and entertained with the OS Monthly Newsletter, with brief updates on members' interests, new members, OS news, and on the latest ebay sales for calculating devices. In addition Ted continues to solicit and gather new entrees for the OS Rarities Gallery; this Gallery has proven to be a very popular feature of our site and now contains over 275 items from more than 30 member contributors and includes many very rare and unusual devices. Again, on behalf of the membership, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Ted for his continuing drive, energy and perseverance and for providing his fresh perspective and insights to the officers and the Board. Yet another important project reaching completion is **Clark McCoy's** untiring efforts at developing a high quality **Digital Journal Archive**, covering all Journals at full picture resolution quality from Volume 0, 0 to the present. Clark has been a key force within the Society, driving the distribution and fulfillment part of the process after Don Black's passing, and most recently, also formally assuming complete responsibility as our OS Treasurer. The new Digital Journal Archive promises to increase access and utility of the JOS articles to even greater levels for researchers, educators, and collectors alike and Clark's single-handed effort at driving this will prove to be of great benefit to the Oughtred Society membership and those interested in the history of calculating devices..

On the membership front, we had some very sad news two months ago regarding **Dieter von Jezierski**, who passed away on June 17, five days following an important heart operation. Dieter was a wonderful man and dedicated collector, educator and author who inspired us all with his deep love and appreciation for slide rules and historical calculators. He was a good friend and mentor to many of us and his loss will be keenly felt throughout our community.

Finally, we should note that 2014 does mark the 400th anniversary, the Quadricentenary, of John Napier's famous work, *Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio* (1614), which introduced the world to his invention of the natural logarithm. This invention was quickly taken up by several prominent mathematicians and universities and resulted in a quantum leap in computational ease, making mathematical computations by hand much quicker and easier. This, in turn, opened the path to many scientific advances in astronomy and physics, and in later achievements in engineering, mechanics, and electrodynamics, including, most especially, that handy and important little tool called the logarithmic sliding rule.

Best regards,
Bob