

Highlights of IM2015--- Our 21st International Meeting for Collectors of Historical Calculating Instruments (24-27 Sept 2015. Hyatt Regency, Burlingame, CA)

This year's International Meeting, the second to be held in the US, was a great success and proved to be a very interesting time for all attendees. Our theme this year, "From Logarithms to Algorithms" focused on the how slide rules and other early calculating tools have been used to change our world, exemplified today by all of the advances being made in Silicon Valley. Five members attended from Europe, representing Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Liechtenstein, and The Netherlands, and members were present from literally across the entire USA, from the east coast to Hawaii. In addition, three original founders took part in our meeting this year, Werner Rudowski from Germany, and Rodger Shepherd and Bob Otnes, both from CA.



Founder Bob Otnes Explaining the Intricacies of an Unusual Mechanical Harmonic Analyzer in his Collection

The meeting began on Thursday evening with informal discussions and small gatherings for dinner at various places in the hotel. Activities on Friday included two sessions of interesting presentations and discussions by our members and were punctuated by a wonderful visit to the home of Bob Otnes, who provided a delicious dessert and a fascinating tour and discussion of highlights from his collection. On full display at his home was his outstanding collection of rare and unusual slide rules, mechanical calculators, and other mechanical devices for aiding in calculation.

The following day completed the presentations and featured our exciting auction with highlights from past-president Tom Wyman's outstanding slide rule collection and a part of past member David Gamble's Dunottar collection of engineering artifacts. The meeting was punctuated on Sunday with a tour of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, where the second reproduction of the Babbage Difference Engine was demonstrated in full glory, followed by final discussions in the afternoon on actions needed to fulfill the Oughtred Society's educational initiatives in 2016.



IM 2015: The Auction Begins....!!

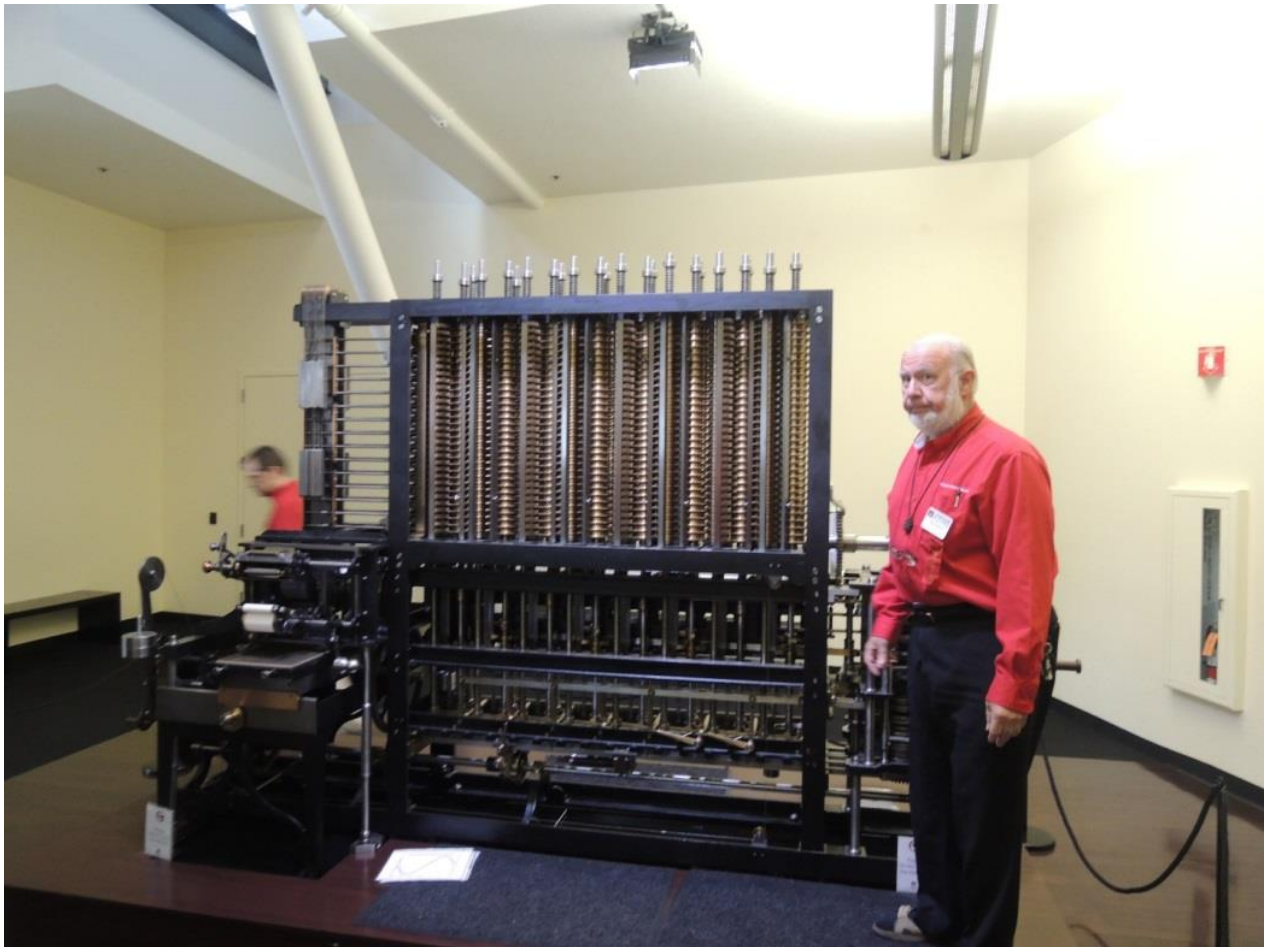
Sales Highlights from the Thomas Wyman Collection:

Hannyngton long scale rule, with additional square roots slide	\$2,200.00
M & P Pocketwatch Circular Rule with timepiece	\$2,200.00
Early boxwood rule, 2 square slides, no maker	\$1,700.00
Early boxwood 4 sides, 2 slides, early form	\$1,700.00
Large Boxwood Sector, 12", Adams	\$1,400.00
K&E 4012 Thacher Calculator	\$1,000.00
Large 12" Brass Sector in hinged wooden box, Troughton London	\$900.00
Froude Boxwood Rule with large metal cursor	\$800.00
Book, Construction of the Logarithms	\$700.00
K&E 4135 Power Computer	\$675.00
Bone rule, 2 slide 2 side	\$650.00
K&E 6" Cox Duplex, nickel all metal cursor, no case	\$600.00
K&E 4012 Thacher Calculator	\$600.00
Large 8" Brass Sector, No Box, Thomas Jones London	\$550.00
Early boxwood 3 slides	\$550.00
Book, Arithmetique Made Eafie	\$550.00
Curta Calc Type I, serial 38786, with case	\$550.00
Curta Calc Type II, serial 512664, with case	\$550.00
2-piece, 2-fold boxwood Brannan's Rule	\$500.00
Boxwood rule, 4 slide 4 side	\$500.00
Kentish's Slide Rule	\$500.00
Fuller Calculator, early version, serial 2138	\$500.00

Based on the significant effort from several OS members in preparing the auction items, and also from the generosity of both estates, a part of the proceeds from both of the collections auctioned by the Oughtred Society have been added to the Society's educational fund. Discussion on Sunday included defining the process to determine the best way to use educational funds to promote numeracy and education in math and science through the use of slide rule displays, direct education, and other methods.

And, as usual, our meetings featured many old friends and many new faces and a good number of ideas on how to meet our educational imperatives. The discussions at lunch and dinner among our members always proves to be some of the most esoteric, yet very fascinating ones, undoubtedly since our members consist of people with very broad interests and backgrounds. To close this summary, let us again recognize the IM 2015 Proceeding Committee members who were key in making this meeting such a great success: David and Donna Sweetman, for their time and teamwork as Managing Editor and Layout Editor for the IM 2015 Proceedings; feedback has been very positive both domestically and internationally on this fine publication; Clark McCoy, for his

countless hours categorizing, logging, scanning and recording all of the details from the important pieces of the Thomas Wyman Collection and all of his other fantastic support for this meeting that goes beyond words; and Kate Matthews and Bob De Cesaris, for working overall communications, implementation, execution, and all of the other meeting details that involved the membership, hotel and the families of the collections to insure that our IM2015 meeting was memorable, interesting, and very enjoyable!



IM 2015 – Revving up The Babbage Difference Engine at the Computer History Museum on Sunday



IM2015 – Some Rarities on Display from the Thomas Wyman Collection