

Oughtred Society 2016 Annual Meeting Report

Las Vegas, Nevada

Bob De Cesaris

Our Annual Meeting for 2016 was held in May at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, NV, and featured a great day at the museum with fascinating displays, four presentations, two very nice dinners, and many interesting items at auction and for sale. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friendships were established with a multitude of interesting conversations and discussions. Many thanks go out to the meeting committee, headed by Chairperson **Richard Davis**, for arrangements with the museum and hotel and for coordination of the presentation topics. In addition **Dick Rose** arranged for refreshments and coffee at the meeting. **Kate Matthews** arranged for the two excellent private dinners at the hotel. We also need to recognize **Riki Nakamoto** who continues to treat the meeting attendees with specialty snacks which he brings from Hawaii; these are very much enjoyed when back home away from the hectic activities of the meeting! Among one of the most notable displays of the day was **Jim Bready's** spectacular "Colossus" circular slide rule, which featured six place accuracy and would be right at home with today's 'steampunk' community. For those who might not be familiar with this term, steampunk reverts to an alternative universe where steam-powered machinery and technology continued to develop to the present day in lieu of the electronics-based technology that did. Obviously in such a world, slide rules would still rule and every serious office would need a Colossus or two. ...and the 102-story Bready Building in midtown Manhattan would feature the Colossus dirigible attached to its mooring mast.



Members Kate Matthews and Riki Nakamoto moving Jim Bready's massive "Colossus" circular slide rule into place for exhibit. Jim apparently overheard someone saying that slide rules needed to have a bit more accuracy.....

Presentation topics for the day included “A Slide Rule Software Program” by **Peter Alfred**, “The Dempster/ Ross Slide Rule Mystery” by **Ed Chamberlain**, “Very Different Slide Rules Types” by **Peter Holland**, and “The Wern Slide Rule”, by **Carl Wern**. Peter demonstrated an interesting software program which emulated problem-solving as a slide rule would while Ed shed more light on the similarities and stunning coincidences between the Dempster and Ross circular slide rules. Peter Holland then covered a host of very diverse types of slide rules that can be found in pencils, tablets, and in many other guises, not commonly known in the US. Finally, Carl highlighted a slide rule that he had developed with his brother some years ago, covering its unique features; he also brought several rare examples to the meeting for display and sale.

The meeting also featured at auction over 70 additional pieces from the Thomas Wyman Collection. Some of the more interesting items that were sold at the meeting from the collection included:

Sales Highlights from the Thomas Wyman Collection, Part 2 (May 2016):

	Boxwood, four side, two slide excise rule, marked *TC* 1727	\$810.00
	Boxwood, four side, three slide excise rule by J. Gilbert	\$710.00
	Boxwood, four side, two slide excise rule, no maker’s name	\$250.00
	Boxwood, two-piece Brannan’s rule, no maker’s name	\$400.00
	Boykin RotaRule, excellent condition	\$200.00
	Ross Precision circular slide rule (missing cursor on small slide rule)	\$380.00
	Hudson’s Horsepower Computing Scale, boxwood rule, by WF Stanley	\$260.00
	Keuffel and Esser Graphical Slide Rule, with four additional slides, in case, excellent	\$320.00
	Four fold rule with Gunter’s Scale, by J.B. Morris	\$660.00
	Four fold rule with Gunter’s Scale, by J. Aston	\$510.00

The election of officers for 2017 was held during the meeting, where **Bob De Cesaris**, **Kate Matthews** and **Clark McCoy** were each re-elected to their current positions.