Editorial

What a year, the Queen’s Jubilee, the Olympic Games and IM 2012 (see report in this issue). Add to that the economic situation and we have a year to remember.

Talking of remembering, the Olympic Games brought back memories of the last time they were held in Britain, 1948. What a difference? No new stadia, no athlete’s village and no torch relay. There was one torch and probably a couple of spares. As a kid I was fortunate to see the flame pass up Uxbridge High Street from the office of the Borough Surveyor’s Office on its way to Wembley Stadium. There was a RAF camp at Uxbridge and many of the athletes were quartered there. Also locally at Ruislip was a pre-war open air lido which hosted all the swimming and diving events. And of course all the athletes were strictly amateur.

Now the good news and the bad news. The good news is that our annual Gazette is being commercially printed and bound but with our usual selection of great articles. This is something of a relief to yours truly as it obviates the tedious task of printing, collating and binding. The outcome is that we have had to increase the price slightly but believe the superior quality of printing will make this acceptable. The real bad news is the exorbitant increase in mailing costs imposed by the Royal mail. This impacts especially on our overseas members, a fact that we are well aware of and have tried to absorb to some extent where possible. Despite this increase in hard times I hope you will be able to continue your membership and support which is so welcome.

New Members

Steven J Wilkinson
196 Stapleton Hall Road
London N4 4QL
stevenwilkinson56@yahoo.co.uk

Neil Watson
32 The Halve
Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 8SA
O1225 752865
watsonreg@btinternet.com

Directory Update

Francis Wells
Résidence “Le Belvédère
1264 Saint-Cergue
Switzerland
Email unchanged

Conundrum II Contd.

D. Len Peach

I was pleased that Rod Lovett opened up the mathematics behind how 7 was a common multiple of 6 digit numbers made up of 3 x the same 2 digit number and 2 x the same 3 digit number.

May I add a little more and bring out another aspect not covered. That is: Starting with the lowest possible 2 digit and three digit number, namely 010101 and 001001 or 10101 and 1001, making all other 2 and 3 digit numbers chosen multiples of them.
Interestingly, 
10101 = 3 x 7 x 13 x 37,  
and 
1001 = 7 x 11 x 13.

This shows that 7 and 13 are both common denominators, and my making such a play of 7, masked the fact that 13 is as perfect as 7 in this case.

But as I said, whilst 7 is associated in the Bible with completeness and perfection (The perfect number), 13 is associated with depravity and rebellion! Not quite so perfect there. But mathematically 7 is as good as 13 especially in this case.

A different sort of Calculator  
Cubic Calculator

e-Bay had a “Cubic Calculator”, patent 8041, made by Philip H. Fletcher of Bradford. It has a weighted solid brass arm which is removable and can be stowed for transit or storage. This fine machine has a glass faced dial with lacquered brass bezel, graduated from 0 to 2000. The Calculator is fitted onto a mahogany case with a base drawer. It came with a Calculation Card, which cannot be deciphered. The instruction on the face of the disc states: “The disc must not be allowed to fall heavily when no cloth is underneath.” I have not been able to get a copy of the patent, and the year is unknown. Anyone any idea how it might have worked?

Bookworm  
The Catholic-Organon or Universal Sliding Foot-Rule, by John Suxspeach  
1st edn 1753

For those with very deep pockets, Suxspeach’s 1753 first edition was for sale on e-Bay at £950 (+£3.50 p&p!) during July this year. This is a fascinating book which followed his design of his first extremely complicated and sophisticated slide rule which incidentally was also the first slide rule to be patented. There were two articles on it in the Journal of the Oughtred Society Vol. 10, No. 2, Fall, 2001 Pg 25, also Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 2003 (or via Rod Lovett’s search engine under Literature Search). A fascinating device and it would be great to read the book – which comes complete with an advert “By the King’s Patent”. I could not find it as an e-Book – shame!

Koch, Huxhold & Hannemann  
Der unbekannter Rechenstabhersteller aus Hamburg  
Georg Schreiber

Some readers might remember the KH&H article in Gazette 9 in autumn 2008, well that was the start of what has now resulted from the wealth of data that Georg has acquired as a result of that initial trawl for information and indeed has shown that KH&H were the “unknown slide rule maker from Hamburg”.

This is an encyclopaedic 110 pages of A4 which covers some 20 or more types of slide rule made by KH&H in their various manifestations, these ranging from the humble Reitz and Mannheim rules through to the very
special Cuntz and many other “specials” which were sold both by the makers as well as the great and good of slide rule retailers both in Germany as well as the USA. KH&H were undoubtedly the fourth German maker, now at long last unveiled. The book is in German, is beautifully and very comprehensively illustrated and certainly brings to light some of the very unusual rules that were made for their customers.

I have no knowledge of prices or availability, but I am sure that Georg who can be contacted at ge.schreiber@t-online.de would be delighted to hear from you should you wish a copy! Recommended.

Collecting Drawing Instruments
David Riches

Pre-publication mention was made in the last issue of SS and now we are able to report on it.

This book is a must for all those interested in drawing instruments covering, as it does, all aspects of these delightful instruments. Starting with an introduction to collecting and points to consider, useful information is provided on the various sources of supply and information.

This work provides details of sets of instruments together with chapters on specialist and sometimes more esoteric instruments. Further chapters cover makers and retailers and country characteristics. Helpful information on building and the care of a collection is also provided. The work concludes with illustrations of instruments from the author’s collection, a glossary of terms, museums with displays, a bibliography and a list of internet links.

Being so comprehensive this book is ideal for both the novice and the experienced collector.

Published by Hexagon Press, the work is fully illustrated and runs to 200 pages. Price on application to the author: drdriches@aol.com

Slide Rule Gazette, Issue 13, Autumn 2012

Another great edition of our annual magazine containing a wide variety of topics of interest to the slide rule collector. Some twenty articles are included covering items such as the making of complex number slide rules, Charpentier’s Calculimètre, Calculigraphe, and Wichmann pocket watch rules. Of special significance is David Rance’s extensively researched article on Lawrence slide rules and their history which includes
illustrations and tables of all their known variants. These plus many other fascinating articles make this 100+ page issue a must for all serious collectors. Now commercially printed and bound the price is as follows:

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<td>UK</td>
<td>£16.50</td>
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<td>USA and rest of world</td>
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All prices quoted include postage.

Orders may be made through the enclosed 2013 subscription form.

**Proceedings IM 2012**

A very limited number of IM 2012 Proceedings are available. This 130 page volume contains the papers and images presented at the International Meeting at Bletchley Park. Among subjects covered are post-war air navigation computers, machine-gun slide rules, the development of Faber-Castell slide rule cursors, the Robinson calculator for complex numbers and much more.

Price postpaid:

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Orders to Hon. Ed. please

**From Road & Track,**

December 1957

John Bolton sends the following extract:

*On the other hand the man you have in mind may be the engineer type, like for instance our technical editor. In that case give him a slide rule tie clasp like the one in the picture below. It’s a clever counterfeit (sic) and would look fine holding down the neck-tie of the mathematician, chemist or engineer in your family. Available from the McKenna Company, 700 Prairie Ave., Providence, R.I.*

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**The power – or otherwise – of words**

Spotted in a copy of “Shooting and Conservation,” it made me stop and wonder!

Pythagoras Theorem – 24 words
The Lord’s Prayer – 66 words
Archimedes Principle – 67 words
Ten Commandments – 179 words
Gettysburg Address – 286 words
US Declaration of Independence – 1,300 words
US Constitution inc 27 amendments – 7,818 words
EU regulation for the sale of cabbages – 26,911 words

**Unlikely partners?**

What’s the link?

Why would you think that we are showing a picture of the famous Victoria Terminus Station in Mumbai/Bombay India? Hardly a slide rule subject you would think,
but fear not, we will not disappoint you. Courtesy of Val Havyatt in Australia and her correspondent Jono, we also have the following picture:

These slide rules were in a display case in the station, assumed to have been used in the design of the railway system. It is interesting to note some of the slightly odd labelling, and the Fuller might have some unusual brass metalwork at the left hand end – in place of a handle? It might also be mounted on something unusual. However what looks to be an Aristo slide rule at the front is certainly not circular neither is it 1857! So, anyone visiting Mumbai, make a note to find out more! Thanks Val (and Jono) for an interesting snippet.

Museum of Mathematics
George Hart

Napier’s bones are a set of labeled sticks which John Napier invented in the 1600s for solving multiplication problems. Nowadays, you may be more likely to use a calculator, but if you want to multiply the old fashioned way, make yourself a set of Napier’s bones. You can use paper, wood, or other materials, but this set is knit. It is one of many mathematical knitting projects by Pat Ashforth, Steve Plummer, and Ben Ashforth.

The image below shows how to arrange the bones if you wanted to multiply by 76495. For example, the bottom row, labeled 9 at left, allows you to read off 9 x 76495. The rightmost digit of the answer is the 5 seen in the triangle at right. Then read off the remaining digits by adding the two numbers in each parallelogram, carrying as necessary, e.g., 1+4 gives 5 as the next digit and 6+8=14 gives 4 as the following digit, with a carry of 1 into the digit after that. The result can be quickly read off as 688455.

What’s in a name 1?
Polygraph

Good old e-Bay was once again the source of a question not immediately answerable, certainly not without recourse to the internet. The device (below) was advertised as an 1886 Brass Polygraph by Polygraph Co, Philadelphia. Measuring approx 4.7” in diameter and inscribed “Polygraph Co, Phila. Pat Dec 8th 1885” and “Improvements Pat’d in Europe Dec 1886” it made me stop and wonder how it worked apart from the odd use of the name Polygraph.
Answer: **Polygraph**

The object, made from brass, is a circular metal template used as an aid to making scale drawings and various geometric shapes. The measurements are die-stamped on the diameter and circumference, along with details of patents. The polygraph was an American invention patented by the Polygraph Company, Philadelphia, USA, on 8 December 1885. A licence was granted the following year to George Delgado for the manufacturing of the polygraph in Europe. The polygraph was advertised by the manufacturers as ‘A Revolution in Drawing’ and was aimed at designers, decorators, draughtsmen, architects, engineers and artisans. It was also described as an invention by which schoolchildren and even ‘a child of few years’ could ‘produce drawings, which formerly required long months of study and preparation’. The polygraph offers an element of surprise in the unpredictable patterns it creates. It also helps to produce an evenness and regularity when producing the pattern that would be difficult to achieve freehand. The circular metal template was accompanied by a set of instructions and a sheet of examples showing the type of designs that could be produced with the instrument.

From the V&A website

Apart from the obvious confusion with Lie Detectors, the internet also has Polygraphs as duplicating devices - also called Pantographs(!) Jeffersons 1804 Polygraph Monticello Cville VA is illustrated at above. It also covers authors who can write about many things and Wikipedia quotes many such authors including Aristotle Plutarch, Varro Cicero and Pliny the Elder. It is also an annual interdisciplinary journal affiliated with the Literature Program of Duke University. None of this explains the delightful bit of brass shown above – has anyone any ideas what it does or how you use it? Once again: What’s in a name?

**Networm**

pmh

This is SkidStick’s latest idea to bring you the sublime and the gor-blimey found on the inter-web, in particular some of e-Bay’s finest offerings which have caught the eye. We start with a stunning arty poster with a slide rule, painted by Stanley Melzoff for United Engineering in 1957. Melzoff is an incredible artist who has featured in my “People and Slide Rules” presentations before, and this is as good as any of his pictures; the combination of cutting torch, chunky welding glove, plumb bob and slide rule is unusual to say the least. I printed a large copy for my wall!

Next we have two very different “electronic slide rules” – the first from Dietzgen in 1973 for their CD1 calculator, which must be pretty rare. They too must have had difficulty selling a mere multi-function electronic calculator! “Here’s the most exciting scientific / engineering tool since we introduced the log-log scale in 1884” – Yeah, really?
Then follows a slightly lower tech but infinitely more interesting newspaper clip from 1960 of “Orlando Brugola & her award winning ‘Electric Slide Rule’ a Science Fair Exhibit”. I wish we knew more about the slide rule! The various print sellers on e-Bay (this one from Historic Images) are well worth a look. There are an incredible collection of slide rule related images, not all are simple adverts involving a rectilinear slide rule and a suitably constipated looking bloke nonchalantly consulting it!

We finish off with the ultimate “must have” contraption all good slide rule owners must crave: nothing less than a magnifying digit-registering cursor from Faber, from sometime in the 1920’s! Wow, and it comes in a super little box as well! Yes please!

It is so rare that my eldest ever reacts to any of my slide rule meanderings that when he does it is worth repeating, particularly as we had such a smashing day at TNMOC during IM 2012. He sent me the following link from the New York Times which is worth looking at in detail as it has not only an interesting article but also entertaining pictures of some of their exhibits: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/29/arts/design/computer-history-museum-in-mountain-view-calif.html?emc=eta1&_r=0.

Musings 42

In the absence of Wogan as a regular contributor on the radio, I have been forced to find new and alternative heroes – I find the modern presenter far too “in your face” to make for pleasurable listening. Having failed miserably to do that for radio, I also find that our television presenters are equally (to me anyhow) brash, arrogant, dumbed-down, stupid, vapid, generally unpleasant (delete as necessary) with the possible exception of a promising new hero for me – James May. Now hero he may yet become as he acts the sensible and staid one with the idiot Clarkson and his side-kick Hamster Hammond. May’s own programmes are usually quite watchable and he seems able to not take himself too seriously – an essential as far as I am concerned. He also writes (or wrote) quite a decent column in the Telegraph at weekends, with content that I either generally agreed with or do not disagree with too violently!

One of his Telegraph columns started: “An old saw popular in scientific circles says ‘Nothing dates as quickly as a vision of the future’. You only have to look at some of the stuff that was on Tomorrow’s World when I was a kid to know that this is very, very true”. This had me nodding furiously and reaching for the Google button on my faithful PC to find a few of these visions which have turned to dust, or not, as the case may be. The one that stuck particularly in my mind was Moore’s Law which has actually been with us for an awful long time. This law, named after Intel co-founder Gordon E. Moore, described in a 1965 paper what he saw as a long-term trend in
the history of computing hardware; that the number of transistors that could be placed inexpensively on an integrated circuit had doubled every year from the invention of the integrated circuit in 1958 until his paper in 1965, and he predicted that the trend would continue “for at least ten years”. There is a particularly good exposition of the Law on Wikipedia\(^1\). Well it has been a bit up and down, with the annual ‘doubling’ changing to “approximately every two years”, “18 months” and so on. I even remember that in the early 1970’s there were scare stories that Moore’s Law would indeed top out in about 1975. Well, the trend has continued for more than half a century and is now not expected to stop until 2015 or later, and we are all beneficiaries of bigger and better, and smaller, electronics as a result. Or are we? – Answers on a post card!

Daily Telegraph 11.07.11. Over half of the scientists and engineers who have ever lived are alive today. China adds about 3.25 million scientists and engineering graduates per year, UK 1,018! This is a statistic (or stasticist, as I’ve heard it called on the square eyed monster) that I find unbelievably sad, and points to a sad end for the productive bit of the UK, particularly when you also read elsewhere that India has produced 350,000 in the same period. An article in Bloomberg\(^2\) argued that these statistics are not accurate; however as an engineer I am not too bothered about absolute accuracy, but the order of things is an indicator that should worry the life out of our government. But what can you expect with a parliament that has one C.Eng. and one practising soldier and 600 plus lawyers?

I have started having more what I call “Oh Sh..!” moments, those where the brain has not worked as fast as it should, or the extremities have not worked as nimbly or dextrously as they used to, resulting in discombobulation! It’s a damn shame, but old age is a bu….! And getting there can be even more of a bu…. But only if you let it get you down. My single Meccano knee has extended my ability to go shooting for about 5 years, a second new knee might allow yet another few years, as indeed might the fact that all who I shoot with are also getting older and being forced to recognise that they too are not as agile as they used to be. It was just such an “Oh Sh..!” moment when I moved gently forward to take up my position on a drive and found that a bramble had lovingly wrapped itself round my wellies such that I measured my length in the soft and pungent we were standing in that has made me review whether it is sensible to carry on when I could be a danger to others!


Member’s Directory

Some of you will have noticed that the issue of the latest Member’s Directory has not been circulated. This is due to the fact that we continually try to keep our costs as low as possible for the benefit of all. A single sheet of paper added to an issue of SS put the cost of mailing up either through weight or thickness of the envelope.

In order to keep members up to date with new members and changes of addresses etc. it is proposed to make the very latest Directory available free of charge via email in...
pdf format. For those without computer access the Directory will be mailed, again free of charge.

For copies of the Directory in either form please contact your Hon. Ed by email or post.

**Slide Rules of the Future?**

Courtesy of Neil Watson come the following images from the cover of “Astounding Science Fiction”. The images have been reproduced in the past but are worth repeating for the benefit of our newer members.

![Image of slide rule within a book cover](image)

Note the slide rule within the slide!

![Image of slide rule](image)

Help!

A number of specialist slide rules are known designed by one V. B. Harley-Mason A.M.I.C.E. The known rules all have hand drawn scales which have subsequently been printed by various publishers and then been mounted on a wood or cardboard stock. Both five and ten inch slide rules are known but to date no information has been found about the designer.

With a view to an article in next year’s Gazette your Hon. Ed. seeks any information that members might have on the man and his output. Any available images would be very welcome.

![A typical Harley-Mason rule](image)
What’s in a Name II?
Preston Calculating Rule

Good old e-Bay was selling the rule shown at left as a “Preston calculating rule” though what makes it a calculating rule is by no means obvious to me. It does appear to have elements of a plain scale as well as other scales that look like ratio scales. But if anyone can cast any light on the scales and how they are used we would be grateful.

IM 2013
International Meeting of Collectors and Researchers of Slide Rules and other Compting Instruments

Berlin, October 11-13, 2013

An invitation is extended to present papers for IM 2013. Traditionally the main subject for IM presentations is the slide rule but the organisers are also interested in receiving papers on other types of mathematical instruments such as integrators, mechanical calculators and tables.

The conference language will be in English and German. All presentations slide will be in English and German language talks will include an English summary. The organisers will assist in any translations and the production of slides as needed.

Registration of your talk should be made as soon as possible. Papers should be submitted by 15/02/13 with a final version by 30/06/2013.

Programme committee:
Prof. Carl Kleine karl.kleine@fh-jena.de
Barbara Haeberlin barbara@anklick-bar.de

For the latest information visit: www.rechenschieber.org

An individual’s impressions on the Antique Scientific Instrument Fair

Sunday 7th October 2012. Holiday Inn, Coram, Street, Bloomsbury, London. 1000 to 1500 hrs.

Fifteen minutes before the opening time only three prospective buyers had arrived
at the doors. In the old days, when the Fair was held at the Portman Hotel, arriving this late would put you back of the queue of at least a hundred and fifty. Three lonely collectors; an old sailor from Great Yarmouth, served with HMS Belfast on the Arctic Convoys who later developed into a keen slide rule collector but adamantly refuses to join our Circle; a fanatic telescope collector from Brussels and myself. All three arrived an hour before the opening and had plenty of time to mull over about the paucity of specimens for sale in the Portobello Road and eBay – and the lack of customers at this event.

When the doors finally opened, the queue of buyers was approaching eighty, more or less. No jostling – plenty of space.

The number of stalls in the main hall was frankly painful. One aisle had been removed, the four walls had between one and three tables. I counted twenty three exhibitors – I may have miscounted since I discovered that stall-holders had spread over multiple tables. In the small hall only five exhibitors - and two these were Bonhams, advertising coming auctions of science instruments, and the Scientific Instrument Society touting for new members and rounding-up recusant backsliding former members.

Commensurate with the lack of exhibitors was a lack of slide rules. I had ample opportunity to speak to a number of the exhibitors – all of them were not acquiring fresh items and were running down their existing stock. Some sellers were selling from their personal web sites – some were cutting their losses by dumping their stock with local auction houses. Maybe we have hoovered up the number of desirable specimens and are waiting for dead men’s collections to add them our own.

I found Bonhams stall most attractive – they had on view a fully working three wheel German Enigma machine and a beautiful land surveying 18th century instrument by John Bennett. Both items had an estimated price of £30,000-£50,000! But a whispered comment from the Belgium telescope collector revealed that the Bennett’s instrument initially started its progress in the system through a rural auction house at a hammer price of £2000 – so keep looking for your “Holy Grail”.

One of Peter Hopp’s comments sums up the situation “Well, at least we have a date for the next Fair”.

The next Fair. Same venue, same time, same entrance charge – Sunday 29th April 2013.

Request for information

Klaus Kuehn of the German RST told us at the IM about his plans for a Magnum Opus relating to Log tables and asked for contributions in various areas of interest, including the following, preferably in pdf.

- Introduction and backgrounds
- History
- Calculation of logarithms
- Types of logarithms
- Tables of logarithms
- Table makers
- Use and applications of logarithms
- References for logarithms (books and internet)

With reference to the “table makers” Klaus is looking for particular information on Michael Taylor, an English writer of Logarithmic Tables, where a recent advert for one of his sets of tables reads most intriguingly: TAYLOR, MICHAEL … (1756-1789), who was a mathematician for the Nautical Almanac; with preface and text by the eminent English astronomer Nevil Maskelyn (1732-1811), who succeeded Bliss as royal astronomer. “The next great advance on Vlacq’s Trigonometria artificialis took place more than a century-and-a-half afterwards, when Michael Taylor published in 1792 (had he not been dead for 3 years? – Ed.) his seven-decimal tables of log sines and tangents to every second of the quadrant: it was calculated by interpolation from the Trigometria to 10 places and then contracted to 7. On account of the great size of this table, and for other reasons, it never came into very general use.” (Encyclopedia Britannica) (16), 64 pp., (446) pp.

Any information very gratefully received, Klaus’ email: napier2014@iasim.de.

**IM 2012**

Jerry MacCarthy

IM2012 started a day early for us, as we had decided that we should spend at least part of a day at the Milton Keynes Museum in the north of the city. It is worth a visit, with its Strowger (telephone exchange) and tram displays, and there was even one SR to see. More details here: [http://www.mkmuseum.org.uk/](http://www.mkmuseum.org.uk/) but let us not speak of it again in these hallowed pages. We then descended (literally, straight down one of MK’s "V" roads") to our hotel, checked in, had a spot of dinner and met up with some other early birds for the evening.

The next day, Friday, was check-in-for-the-conference day, which went off largely without issue, as far as this author could tell. Displays, including this author’s, were set-up and later torn-down in preparation for the evening’s programme of talks, which included a talk by Dr Joel Greenburg of Bletchley Park (BP), and a more light-hearted lecture on the subject of Slide Rules for Juggling. No Slide Rules were juggled or otherwise harmed.

Saturday dawned bright and early for most of us, and, breakfast out of the way, we distributed ourselves into various cars (including this author’s) for the brief drive to BP. Today was the main lecture day in The Mansion's Ball Room, and we enjoyed talks covering a wide range of subjects such as Flight Navigation Computers, Machine-gun slide rules, Slide Rules for Computer Programmers, Pocket Watch slide rules, and "how to use a Slide Rule to break the ice in remote bars in Sweden" to name just a few (in fact less than a half) of the subjects covered. After dinner, Karl Kleine closed down the day with our evening entertainment as he presented his new and improved "Slide Rules in the Movies" talk.

An attentive audience in the ballroom, Bletchley Park Mansion
On Sunday we returned to BP for a full program of tours around the Park itself, and the commercially separate National Museum of Computing (TNMOC) where we were treated to a viewing of the Tunny and Colossus rooms and many of the other treasures which are stored within its maze-like corridors. That complete, we returned to the hotel for our final dinner. Once, that is, the drivers had found their passengers, some of whom had almost to be forcibly extracted from the BP gift shops!

Bis zum nächsten Mal in Berlin!

Delegates assembled outside Bletchley Park Mansion

Ladie’s programme, Saturday, 22nd September
Judith Green

The ladies enjoyed a very nice day out. First, we visited the famous 'Centre MK,’ the very large Milton Keynes shopping mall, for a pleasant couple of hours. Then we piled into the bus and headed for Aylesbury, where we went to a beautiful old pub, the King's Head. A sign outside noted that it has been Aylesbury's finest pub since the year 1280 and the excellence of the lunch seemed to confirm the accuracy of this claim.

Afterwards, we proceeded to the nearby Waddesdon Manor, a spectacular stately house once owned by the Rothschild family, now a National Trust property. We were lucky with the weather and, after touring the house, were able to spend time strolling around the beautifully landscaped grounds in the sunshine, before heading back to the hotel.

Many thanks to Sylvia for helping to make the day a success.
The UKSRC Archive

An idea has been floated by Rod Lovett to create a UKSRC Archive, which we believe has considerable merit, and for which we would like UKSRC membership input to help formulate its substance and detail. The UKSRC archive – there may well be a better name for it – aims to collect a series of illustrated lists relating to member’s interests, specialisations, ideas, and so-on on slide rules; as well as forming a record of unique, special, rare, valuable etc items within members collections. The idea is to be as broad as possible in scope. These lists may have one or several themes; some ideas for consideration include:

Valuable may be a Unique Log-log but it may have belonged to your granny or Albert Einstein and so have “value” for a number of reasons. Valuable may also be an expensive slide rule by nature of rarity.

Specialisations are easier. We have a number of members each with a unique and incredible collection of slide rules relating to an interest, say alcohol, artillery, Blundell Harling etc.

Ideas or themes. We have looked at such ideas previously under the title “Which twelve slide rules would you keep?” (See SS 18, 19 and 20). This produced much debate and very differing views from a number of members.

Rarity, uniqueness, etc are probably self-evident.

The major difference is that each “thread” or “list” in the UKSRC archive would be recorded under a member’s name. They would also provide a short description and a digital photograph of each item in the list / thread which can then be recorded for posterity to provide a bit of immortality and a record of that persons collection as well as his / her ideas on slide rules and why they were important.

The initial idea is to record and access the archive on the UKSRC web site in the same way as Rod has “Herman’s archive” on his web site.

Please make a special effort to let us know your thoughts on this idea. I am sure we do not want multitudes of pictures of F-C 2/83N slide rules or any other for that matter, as favourites, just one photo but many references if that is what everyone wants. We do recognise that some common examples are available in many places on the web, but equally that we should record members’ collections as a permanent record. Your thoughts and ideas will be collated in next SS.

What is it?

Elsewhere on e-Bay is a contraption described as a “screw rule thing” made by W. Gregory and Co. was featured. It was just over 3” long, with a pair of vernier scales on one face.

Should anyone have any ideas what the device might measure or be used for please let us know. Standard plaudits in the next Skid Stick to the best ideas that the readership can rustle up – I know you will not let us down!

Finally, I could not resist the 1969 Greenland Studios advert for three chronographs, including a Slide Rule Chronograph; and just look at the prices! How good do you think these were? The mind boggles!