Calculating in Everyday Life

slide rules, tables, calculators and other mathematical devices

Karl Kleine (editor)

Proceedings of the 23th International Meeting of collectors and researchers of historical computing instruments

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Welcome to the International Meeting 2017

Karl Kleine

This year's *International Meeting of collectors and researchers of historical computing instruments* is the 23rd conference of its kind.[1] After four years (IM2013 Berlin) we gather again in Germany, in Bonn, at the Arithmeum.

The programme follows the traditional scheme: Start after friday noon with a first technical session, then after a break the swap and display session. This will be held at the conference hotel.

The first technical session with with presentations / papers by Heimann, Adams, Brentini and Perregaux is about slide rules, the core subject of International Meetings.

It is a long term custom for IMs to have a theme, but it is not exclusive. This is also the case for this year's theme *Calculating in Everyday Life*. The saturday morning is dedicated to it. It is a constrast programme. Typical contributions at IMs are about specific technical issues or particular models of slide rules, mechanical calculators, or mathematical instruments in general.

[1] Recent IMs were 2012 Bletchley Park (United Kingdom), 2013 Berlin (Germany), 2014 Delft (Netherlands), 2015 Bay Area (USA), 2016 Trento (Italy). More about the International Meetings and the various organizations involved can be found in the introductory chapter of the Proceedings of IM2013: Karl Kleine (ed.), *Computing for Science, Engineering and Production*, Nordersted: BoD – Books on Demand, 2013.

This year, we want to take a broader view, looking at the mundane, even trivial issues and the use of calculating tools and aids not in the hands of professional specialists but their use by laymen or craftsmen in their day to day life.

Various aspects of that are treated in the four papers of Irler, Chamberlain, Marras and Fernàndez. A fifth is a joined effort of RST members to provide a colorful collection of samples from their personal collections as demonstration of these aspects. Peter Holland came up with the idea at the spring 2017 RST meeting and was joined by Rance, Kugel, Perregaux, Rudowski and Kleine.

After lunch and guided visits of Arithmeum collections and depots for the IM participants de Man and Lucas & van der Salm will present two completely different subjects, checksum calculators and the building of a replica of a demonstration machine for statistical distributions.

A final session again about slide rules as well as other open issues not covered in these proceedings finishes the second day of the IM2017.

The complete saturday programme will be held at the Arithmeum. The papers in these proceedings appear in the same sequence as in the IM programme.

On sunday there will be the opening and vernissage of a special exhibition 'Three hundert Years of Logarithmic Computation in German Lands' at the Arithmeum as extension of the traditional IM schedule. This exhibition will display rare early slide rules and other logarithmic instruments up to the begin of the twentieth century. There will also be a special catalogue for it.

Display of mechanical calculators at the Arithmeum