

Call for contributions on logarithms

Slide Rules ↔ Logarithms

I have started to collect slide rules some years ago and are owning a nice collection with all kinds of different examples showing the history of this mathematical instrument (calculating aid). Recently my interest turned to the logarithms. Logarithms are not only the foundation/basis of the SR, they have contributed an overwhelming amount - have revolutionized - approaches to astronomical, navigational, surveying, and all kinds of mathematical calculations. The use of logarithms facilitated a lot of calculations or made new solutions accessible. And I could go on with more and more....

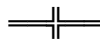
The year 2014

Looking ahead to the year 2014 my plan is to compile all that knowledge of logarithms which is available right now. 2014 is the 400th anniversary of the first publication of logarithms by John Napier (*Mirijici Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio*). So, for that year a proper publication should be ready.

10 years from now looks far away, though, but from my recent experience with editing the Dennert&Pape Aristo book - which took 3 years - I know that time runs fast. And, since all contributions were made voluntarily, you cannot put any pressure on the contributors.

I am looking forward to hear from you at kk@IASim.de and would be pleased to answer any questions.

Klaus Kuehn



Contributions

That is why I am asking the slide rule collectors community if there are interested contributors for that "Logarithms" endeavour. I am looking for people who like to contribute whatever in whichever form they want - as long as it relates to logarithms. So far I only have a rough idea of the content/title: "Logarithms - tables and applications". The publication should come bilingual English and German.

As starting point for my endeavour I consider the IM 2004, where we dedicated one day just to the logarithms, and the topics of that day could stand as examples for contributions, e.g. table makers (like Vlacq and Vega), calculating logarithms (like Briggs and the differences calculating machines), historical background (like Archimedes, Napier, and Buerger). Those IM articles are published under www.rechenschieber.org.

So, if any of the readers feels triggered to at least think about a contribution, please contact me. I see my role as collector and coordinator of those contributions, keeping the whole project progressing.