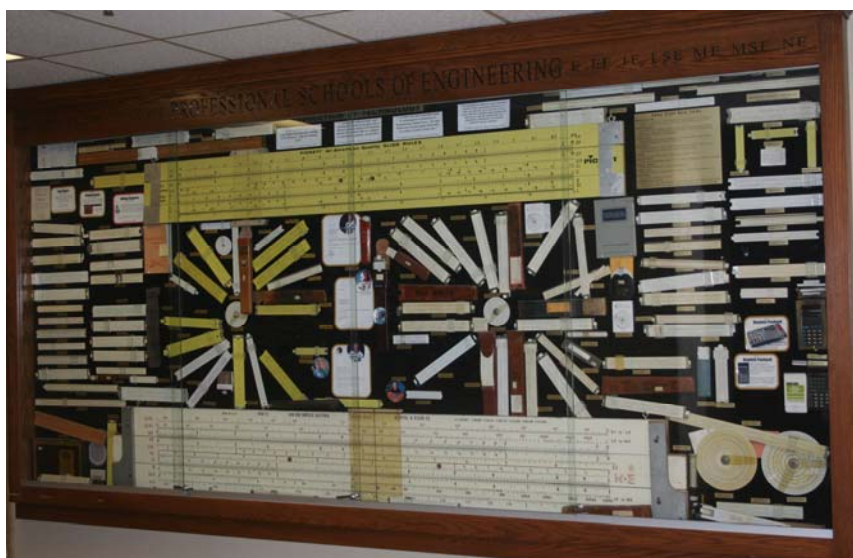


PURDUE

UNIVERSITY



INVENTORY TO THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY SLIDE RULE COLLECTION

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
504 West State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058
(765) 494-6414**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

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Revised: April 16, 2009
Compiled By: Shauna Borger

Descriptive Summary

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Creator Information | Collected by the College of Engineering |
| Title | Purdue University Slide Rule Collection |
| Collection Identifier | MSR 3 |
| Date Span | 1889-1962 |
| Abstract | Slide rules, exhibit signs and materials, books owned by Purdue Alumni, documenting and exhibiting the history of the slide rule instrument |
| Extent | 9 cubic feet |
| Finding Aid Author | Shauna Borger, April 2009 |
| Languages | English |
| Repository | Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries |

Administrative Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Location Information: | KRC Vault |
| Access Restrictions: | Collection is open for research. |
| Acquisition Information: | 17 March 2009. Materials came from display in Potter Engineering Building. |
| Accession Number: | 20090317 |
| Preferred Citation: | MSR 3, Purdue University Slide Rule Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries |
| Copyright Notice: | It is unknown if the slide rules were donated to Alleman and/or Purdue or not. Some of the astronauts wrote letters accompanying their slide rules but it is not clear if they were donations or loans. |
| Related | Purdue University Alumni |

**Materials
Information:**

[http://e-
archives.lib.purdue.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fpualumni](http://e-archives.lib.purdue.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fpualumni)

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Alleman, James E.

Armstrong, Neil, 1930-

Ross, Jerry Lynn, 1948-

Organizations

Purdue University

Purdue University. School of Engineering

Topics

Slide-rule

Measurement

Engineering

Form and Genre Types

exhibitions (events)

slide rules

Occupations

Astronauts

Aerospace engineering

Civil engineering

Universities and colleges Faculty

History of the Purdue School of Engineering

Purdue University's very first engineering courses began in the spring semester of 1875. In 1892 Purdue built the world's first locomotive testing lab. The University began with a strong mechanical engineering emphasis and over the years has developed many more areas of engineering. To name a few: aeronautical, chemical, industrial, electrical, agricultural. In 1930 the first university-owned airport is built for aeronautics courses to support Purdue's growing aeronautical engineering program. In mid-1941 it was decided the aeronautical engineering should play a key role in Purdue's growing war-training effort. The School of Mechanical Engineering's name is changed to the School of Aeronautical Engineering to reflect this decision. In 1973 another named change showed the growing importance and interest in flight and space. The new name became the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics. 2004 became the year that Purdue merged all of the engineering education into one school: School of Engineering. This reflected the shift to multidisciplinary and collaboration.

James Alleman was a professor of civil engineering at Purdue from 1989 to 2005 who collected slide rules and books for this collection. Alleman began collecting slide rules from alumni around 1987 out of personal interest and for a display to coincide with civil engineering's centennial celebration in 1987. According to Alleman, "There was a point in time when the slide rule was king. During a period of about 400 years, anything anybody built that was of any magnitude would have required a slide rule" (Venere, 2004).

Alleman is currently a Professor at Iowa State University in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1971. In 1972, he received his M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1972 and he received his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1978. In 2006 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Technical University of Crete, Xania, Greece.

The display where these slide rules were housed was located in the A. A. Potter Engineering Center at Purdue University from 2004 to 2009, when it was taken down and transferred to the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections.

Source(s):

Venere, E. (2004). *Astronauts, Purde alumni add their contributions to new slide-rule exhibit.* Purdue University News. Retrieved April 16, 2009 from <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/html4ever/2004/040830.Alleman.sliderules.html>.

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Slide Rule Collection (1889-1962, 9 cubic feet) documents slide rules owned and used by Purdue Engineering Alumni. The majority of the collection are slide rules, ranging from 4 inches to 8 feet long. The collection contains slide rules owned by several famous Purdue Alumni Astronauts such as Neil Armstrong, Richard O. Covey, Guy Gardner, and Jerry L. Ross. Types of materials include: artifacts, books, signs, printed material, photographs, exhibit accoutrements. The collection was taken directly from the exhibit and the original donation letters written and signed by the Alumni were never found. The letters that are provided in the collection are copies that were made to include in the exhibit. Slide rules labeled “Unknown” refer to the fact that the donor or previous owner is unknown.

Arrangement

1. Slide Rule Collection, 1889-1962, 9 cubic feet

Boxes 1-4, 8 contain slide rules, the majority of which the donor or previous owner is named. Some of the slide rules in Boxes 1-4 are labeled “Unknown.” Boxes 4 and 8 contain slide rules and exhibit materials. Box 5 contains books pertaining to understanding slide rules and instructions on how to use slide rules. Box 6 contains a sign labeled “Lafayette School Corporation.” Box 7 contains two calculators. There are also 3 oversized materials ranging from 3.5 to 8 feet long. Neil Armstrong’s donated slide rule is located in Box 1, along with a copy of his signed letter of donation. The slide rules are arranged into folders alphabetically by last name in each box.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in acid-free folders and acid-free boxes. Larger items which didn’t fit in folders were wrapped in tissue paper and placed in acid-free boxes. The smallest oversized item was wrapped in tissue paper.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Slide Rule Collection, 1889-1962

9 cubic feet

Box 1 Contents

Folder

- 1 James E. Alleman. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 2 in. W, 1960
2. Wilbur R. Alleman. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W
3. Robert B. Allen. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 6 in. L x 1.2 in. W
Made in Santa Barbara, CA
4. Neil A. Armstrong. Slide rule inside a case with Velcro for display purposes 6.5 in. L x 2 in. W. Copy of Gift of Deed signed by Neil Armstrong with an attached photo, 8.5 in. L x 7 in. W
5. Chester H. Bowers. Slide rule inside a case with Velcro for display purposes, 6.4 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Information on the slide case: Donated by: Chester H. Bowers, Purdue-Class of CE '39. Written in year: 1940
6. Chester H. Bowers. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.2 in. L x 1.5 in. W. 1962. Made by Pickett, All Metals Slide Rules
8. G. T. Buchmeier. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Text on the slide rule: Keuffel and Esser Co. NY, Pat. June 5. '00 Dec. 22. '08 April 1. '24 Made in the USA
9. Eugene A. Cernan. Slide rule inside a case with Velcro for display purposes 12.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Copy of Gift of Deed signed by Eugene Cernan with an attached photo, 8.5 in. L x 7 in. W
10. David L. Cochran. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 6 in. L x 1 in. W
11. Richard O. Covey. Slide rule, 12.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Picture of Richard Covey, 3.4 in. circumference.
12. Jack Danielson. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 11.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Text on the slide rule: Sun, Hemmi, Japan, De

13. John R. Decamp. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 2 in. W. Keuffel and Esser Co. NY, Made in USA, Patent pending
14. Sukree Dheeragool. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 2.5 in. W
15. Richard H. Dickson, Jr. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 12.5 in. L x 2.5 in. W. Picket & Eckel, Inc. Chicago 3, Ill. USA
16. Jeffery P. Dieterlen. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 6 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Text on slide rule: The Electric Furnace Company, Designers and Builders of Gas Fired, Oil Fired, and Electric Furnaces, Salem, Ohio
17. James E. Etzel. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes, 6.5 in. L x 1.5 in. W. Name card for display purposes
18. W. J. Fan. Slide rule with Velcro for display purpose. Picture of W. J. Fan
19. Robert Foerster. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes
20. Guy Gardner. Slide rule with Velcro for display purposes
21. William E. Gervasio
22. William E. Gervasio
23. William E. Gervasio
24. Bill Goetz
25. Joe. S. Goff
26. Victor M. Goldschmidt
27. John S. Gregory
28. Marilyn Guillavme
29. Marilyn Guillavme
30. Richard L. Hall
31. Robert D. Hand
32. Robert D. Hand

Box 2 Contents

Folder

- 33. John Havers
- 34. Frank Hebert

- 35. Dorothy Herrick

- 36. T.J. Herrick
- 37. Gerald L. Houze

- 38. Ursula M. Jarnigan

- 39. Jeff Keirn

- 40. Wilfred W. Kettler, Jr.

- 41. Edwin J. Kirsch
- 42. Ralph A. Knaus

- 43. Adelbert M. Knevel

- 44. Rupert Knierim

- 45. Robert Kniptash

- 46. Richard S. Kraus

- 47. Richard S. Kraus

- 48. Richard S. Kraus

- 49. G. A. Leonards

- 50. G. A. Leonards

- 51. David G. Leverenz

- 52. J. D. Martin. Note on the back: James D. Martin 1/9/86
- 53. J.D. Martin

- 54. J.D. Martin

- 55. Erna Maston

- 56. Scott McAfee and Robert Nattermann

- 57. K.E. McConnaughay
- 58. K.E. McConnaughay
- 59. K.E. McConnaughty
- 60. J.F. McLaughlin
- 61. C.W. Messersmith
- 62. C.W. Messersmith

Box 3 Contents

Folder

- 63. Robert D. Miles
- 64. Robert D. Miles
- 65. Robert D. Miles
- 66. Van E. Neie
- 67. Mark W. Noe
- 68. J. G. Nohsey
- 69. Roger S. Odman
- 70. R. A. Olsen
- 71. R. A. Olsen
- 72. R. A. Olsen
- 73. Robert Pappenfort P.E.
- 74. R. L. Purdum
- 75. Donald Rerick
- 76. Paul L. Roelke
- 77. Charles B. Roth
- 78. Charles B. Roth

- 79. J. M. Salmon, Jr.
- 80. R. O. Shaeffer
- 89. Unknown #2
- 90. Unknown #3
- 91. Unknown #4
- 92. Unknown #5. Enclosed is a memo with the date of February 19, 1986

Box 4 Contents

Folder

- 93. Unknown #6
- 94. Unknown #7
- 95. Unknown #8
- 96. Unknown #9
- 97. P. Aarne Vesilind
- 98. Myles L. Vollmer
- 99. J. J. Wagner
- 100. M. Thurston Ward
- 101. Judy Ware
- 102. P. Aarne Vesilind
- 103. John S. Weaver
- 104. John S. Weaver
- 105. David Williams
- 106. Nelson E. Wise
- 107. Nelson E. Wise
- 108. John D. Wolszon

- 109. Jeff R. Wright
- 110. Ronald F. Wukasch
- 111. Ronald F. Wukasch
- 112. Name tags
- 113. Exhibit Materials
- 114. Exhibit Materials
- 115. Exhibit Materials
- 116. Exhibit Materials
- 117. Exhibit Materials
- 118. Wrapped Materials. Robert Miller Shafer, David G. Leverenz, P.E., Jerry L. Ross-
Dated April 16, 2004, Roy Bridges & Steve Tower, Col. Roy Bridges & Steve Tower,
Mary Ann Zimmerman, William Goetz, John Hayes, Cecil E. Mengerink, G.
Buchmeier, J.D. Martin, Marion L. Tatlock, Jennifer Byerly, Jerry L. Ross

Box 5 Contents

3 books on slide rules
 Instructions for using the Binary Slide Rule. Slide Rule Simplified
 Versalog: Slide Rule Instructions

Box 6 Contents

Lafayette School Corporation-Student Slide Rule for Overhead Projector

Box 7 Contents

(2) Calculators. John T. Gaunt calculator. Robert D. Miles calculator

Box 8 Contents

Evolution of Technology sign. "Some Slide Rule Terms" sign. Slide rule from: Richard Dickson, Jr., A.M. Tawney, Eugene C. Bowman, Myles L. Vollmer, George W. Hand, Bob Lee, Unknown

Oversize Materials

Oil and Gas Wells Slide Rule
 Note on Rule: Copyrighted 1889 by Forrest M. Towl, C. E., Capacity 42 gal/das
 3.5 feet long, 2 inches high

2 slide rules manufactured by Pickett All American Quality Slide Rules
7 feet long, 11 inches high

1 slide rule
8 feet long, 14 inches high