

# INTRODUCTION TO IM2010

*Chris Hakkaart*

## **Dear Participants and Partners**

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> International Meeting and the fifth time the Dutch are organising it for the International Slide Rule Community. Many of you have participated in one or more of the previous meetings and we welcome you, and the new participants and the Partners.

This symposium confirms that historical calculating instruments are a very interesting subject. Investigation and research is still going on and many more subjects need study. That happens in such an enthusiasm, that quickly after the start of the preparations for this IM so many proposals were submitted that we had to announce a stop. These days will be very busy for you with many interesting presentations. It also shows that there is plenty of interesting material for future IM's.

Each of the organising countries have their characteristic aspects for their IM's. The Dutch often have a title. This time it is *mini & MORE*. It reflects the content of this program by the quantity of presentations of subjects about different types of "minis" by Participants and for the first time also by Partners. It seems that Partners have also very interesting collecting hobbies! The "MORE" reflects to others subjects. French Slide Rules are known, but have never had the attention they deserve. It has taken a lot of effort, but we succeeded to organise a set of presentations about French Slide Rules by French experts. It will broaden our knowledge. On previous IM's English or German was the language. Now French will be added, but with a simultaneous translation.

The presentations we will see these days have a high value of science. When collecting sponsorships for the IM, I used the words meeting, congress and symposium. Without sponsorships it would not be possible to organise a meeting like this at such a high level. We are very happy that the sponsors make these days possible. But what is the best name to use. Well, a Congress is a meeting of people mostly of international level. A Symposium is a scientific congress. I am convinced that the level of presentations can easily compete with other scientific meetings. So the word Symposium fits in my view the best to us today.

The organising committee realizes that our community becomes older, although still new and younger collectors join us. Organising an IM requires a lot of effort and (financial) responsibility. The number of participants is mostly in the order of 50 to 70. Anticipating on the future, when the format of these IM's may change due to a possible reduction of participants, we decided to organise an experiment for those who are not able to visit the IM, but are still interested. At the second day a Virtual Meeting via the WEB is planned. Those who are interested can log in with their computer without extra software and costs and follow a presentation. This may be a future way of communication for our community. We will evaluate this experience afterwards.

Often Dutch IM's are at two locations. In 2003 these were Breukelen and Amsterdam and in 2007 Lelystad and Enkhuizen. It requires a lot more organisation, but the experience is that travelling together early in the morning has a special ambiance. This time the city is Leiden, but we have two meeting locations, the hotel and the University. And travelling will be done at the way travelling was done in this area in the eighteen century, by boat. I hope you will enjoy it.

The stocks of slide rules have been dried up. So we are not able anymore to give an old slide rule as a present. That has urged us to some creativity, which resulted in the N-cards. A unique specially developed present. During the diner some entertainment will be provided.

Thanks to the members of the Organising committee who are listed below. On the background we were supported by many of you with ideas and suggestions.

*We all wish you interesting and enjoyable days !!!*

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The organising committee of the International Meeting of Collectors of Historical Calculating Instruments 2010 “MINI & MORE” consist of the next persons.



**Chris Hakkaart**, chairman of the organising committee, did coordination, all financial planning and handling, arranging of sponsoring and –last but not least- supplying pastries during our meetings:

“I am now for over 10 years involved in collecting objects which belong to our scope, mostly slide rules and slide charts, but also sometimes an interesting calculating machine. Beside that I am interesting in drafting templates, especially after the IM 2007. The scope is wide and the time available is limited, especially when you have a fulltime job. Most time spent today is to accommodate the Kring and the IM's by taking part in the organisation. Time for really collecting and study is limited. But as I have said previously, the interest in slide rules, etc is twofold. First I admire the dedication of people who have developed all those sorts of instruments to facilitate their job. Second, I like the slide rule community because of their broad interests. And also the broad interest of their Partners and their knowledge about very typical objects, as we will see at this IM. And I can mention a third reason: we have and are documenting the history of heritage at a moment that it is possible to collect information from original sources. In future it will become clear that the value of our documentation will be appreciated. The special subjects of this MINI & MORE Symposium and your presence will be another step in the pleasure of collecting slide rules.”



**Otto van Poelje** handled the IM2010 registration process and prepared the Proceedings. Otto also developed the N-card.



**Leo van der Lucht** coordinated the graphic designs and organised the printing of the Proceedings.

Together with **Andries de Man**, **Leo** planned and prepared the first Virtual Meeting on the Web.



**Gerard van Gelswijck** arranged the locations and the boat transports in between.

**Ronald van Riet** had a major job in organising the French input during this Symposium, and taking care of all French-English translations.



## List of Supporters and Sponsors of the IM 2010

This International Meeting could only be organised with the support, in a direct or indirect way, of individuals, organisations and companies. The Organising Committee expresses, also on behalf of the participants, their acknowledgement for their support.

Thanks to all the speakers and authors of the papers in the Proceedings, who have invested time during the preparation of their contribution.

Others have supported on occasional basis, to make the IM 2010 a success:

- Willem van der Veere, the designer of the impressive cover and the N-card.
- Our sister organisations abroad, who assisted in providing information and distributing the announcement.
- Our partners, who assisted the organisation and guided the Partners program: Henny C. Brouwer, Daria Bouwman, Janny van Poelje.
- Inge Rudowski and Daria Bouwman, ladies collectors, who presented two lectures about mini's.
- IJzebrand Schuitema and David Rance who supplied many ideas.

Financial support has been received from the following sponsors:

**Bouwen met Staal**

The National Dutch organisation on Steel  
Boerhavelaan 40, 2713 HX Zoetermeer, The Netherlands  
<http://www.bouwenmetstaal.nl>

**Dutch Circle of Historical Calculating Instruments**

ovpoelje@rekenlinialen.org  
<http://www.Rekenlinialen.org>

**The Oughtred Society**

International organisation of collectors dedicated to the preservation and history of slide rules and other calculating instruments (USA)  
<http://www.oughtred.org>

**Shell Pensioenfonds**

The Retirement Organisation of Shell  
PB 162, 2501 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands  
<http://www.Shell.nl>

**Exact Education**

Educational Consultancy  
[S.Salm@kpnmail.nl](mailto:S.Salm@kpnmail.nl)

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Institute for electrotechnical and mechanical education  
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**Intop Zorgsector**

Courses concerning medical technology  
<http://www.Intopzorgsector.nl>



# SHORT HISTORY OF LEIDEN

## Host City of IM2010 and of the Partners Program

*Chris Hakkaart & Henny Brouwer*

The International Meetings in The Netherlands are often at two locations. This time however, it is only Leiden, but we will still visit two locations within Leiden. The first day we will stay at a hotel with history located at the Rhine. The second day we will sail by boat from this hotel to the inner city of Leiden, where the participants will walk along the old canals to Plexus, a University building. Our partners will continue with a tour with the boat through the canals of Leiden. At the end of the day we will travel back by boat. Detailed information about Leiden can be found in bookshops and the Internet, but some specials are mentioned hereafter.

Leiden is a very old city. It is located at a point where two arms of the Rhine join each other. Figure 1 indicates the growth of the city from before the year 1000 up till today. Around the inner city with canals, suburbs are located. We will stay in the old area of the city.



*Figure 1 - Leiden through the centuries*



*Figure 2 - Map of Blaeu*

In the seventeenth century many maps were made of The Netherlands, Europe and the world. One of the famous map makers was Blaeu. He was involved in the production of a map of Leiden, where you even can see the fronts of the houses (Fig 2, also see the larger image following the front page). This map has recently been transferred in a 3D animation. During the IM 2010 this animation will be shown, to give you an impression of Leiden in the seventeenth century. Besides slide rules, maps have my interest, maybe because one of my possible ancestors, Jan Hackaert, was a cartographer in the seventeenth century. He lived in the same period as Blaeu and it is known there were contacts between the different cartographers. Hackaert however painted perspective views of landscaping and mountains and is well known in Switzerland and Austria. But that is another story.

Leiden is also the city where Rembrandt was born in the Weddesteeg. When we sail by boat on Saturday, it is one of the first streets of Leiden at your right hand. A DVD portraying his life in Leiden will be shown during the IM 2010. Leiden has 1320 historical buildings which is the largest number of historical buildings/km<sup>2</sup> in The Netherlands. It was an important city in 17th century mainly from the production of linen. It became a city of refugees: in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century the Flemish, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the French, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the English Pilgrim Fathers, who departed in 1620 to America. Also Germans refugees found a place in Leiden and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Huguenots. The first University of The Netherlands was founded by Willem van Oranje. This University has a "sweat" room, where the final examinations were held and where the successful candidate writes his or her name (already for centuries) on the wall (fig 3).