IM 2021 online

First Announcement

27ᵗʰ International Meeting of Collectors and Researchers of Slide Rules and other Historic Computing Instruments

ZOOM conference on September 11–12, 2021

This year's International Meeting (IM) was originally planned as a traditional conference in Florence, Italy. Due to the raging pandemic, in particular the virus' mutants and their even worse behaviour, this had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, as a side effect also the Italian organization broke down.

In order to keep the series of yearly IMs running, Karl Kleine, the convener of the German RST and author of these lines, teamed up to Wolfgang Irler from Italy to hold an International Meeting in the form of an internet-based teleconference. We will use the ZOOM system, as it was also used last year by the Oughtred Society for a similar event. Due to the new and unpredictable pandemic situation in 2020 that had to be organized on rather short notice, but nevertheless turned out a success. This year we strive for a more streamlined conference organization, with standard processes adapted to the situation. That will also include the publication of proceedings as a book, like IM 2013 and IM 2017.

Within a few days, there will be

- a web site for IM 2021: **www.im2021.org**
  this will be the primary source of information for you

- a call for papers, published on the conference web site, together with guidelines for authors

- a schedule of deadlines and events

Registration will be handled later, when we have some numbers for further planning, but for that we do need an educated guess on the number of participants. For this reason, we urge you to indicate your intention to join IM 2021 by an email message, subject line *IM2021 intention*, to `kleine@im2021.org` as soon as the web site is ready, or `karl.kleine@eah-jena.de`. Please state in this message your name, place/country, email address. If you also intend to contribute a presentation / paper, please note that also, even if or when that's very tentative or the call for papers is not yet out.

International Meetings have by tradition a theme or motto and one or two sessions dedicated to it, next to the usual potpourri of subjects of slide rules and other computing instruments. IM 2021's motto will be

Computing Instruments Collecting in Pandemic Times

Karl Kleine, 21.02.2021, `karl.kleine@eah-jena.de`