Although it has been more than forty years since slide rules passed out of daily practice for most mathematicians and engineers, the instruments are nostalgically remembered as part of our common heritage. Historians study slide rules to better understand the evolution of computation, instrumentation, and even connections between these objects and the wider culture. Some mathematics teachers offer instruction in slide rules to help students visualize the process of calculation. The Smithsonian Institution recently digitized over 250 slide rules and related documentation from the mathematics collections, organizing these records into an online exhibit at http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups. Some instruments in other collections are also available for public view via http://collections.si.edu. While this talk does not promise the epic narrative of a Hollywood blockbuster, it will briefly trace, the 400-year history of slide rules by focusing on those aspects of the story that are especially well-documented by this collection. We will also note how organizing the collection in different ways reveals different aspects of how these instruments changed over time. (Received September 03, 2013)