

1046-01-287 **Peggy Aldrich Kidwell*** (kidwellp@si.edu), MRC631, NMAH, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012. *Computing Devices, Mathematics Education and Mathematics - Sexton's Omnimetre in Its Time.*

In 1899, Albert Sexton, a Philadelphia mechanical engineer, received the John Scott Medal of the Franklin Institute for his invention of the Omnimetre, a circular slide rule designed to carry out all the common operations of arithmetic and trigonometry, except addition and subtraction. At the suggestion of a Belgian-born user of the instrument, it was inscribed: "NUMERI MUNDUM REGUNT." In part because of instruments like the omnimetre, numbers increasingly ruled the practical world of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century United States. This changed not only engineering, but mathematics education and mathematics itself. (Received August 25, 2008)