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American mathematicians have used a wide array of objects in their teaching. Many of the most important of these, such as chalkboards, textbooks, overhead projectors, were used by many disciplines at many levels of education. Other objects, such as drawing instruments, slide rules, electronic calculators and recent computer algebra systems, did much to reduce mathematical operations to physical manipulation. These tools were designed not only for instruction, but for use outside the classroom. Finally, such devices as geometric models, linkages, oversized slide rules and blackboard drawing instruments have been made for demonstration. Once students mastered the metaphor, such tools could be set aside. Such objects have not only intrigued mathematicians and their students but served to display the wealth and mathematical sophistication of the institutions that owned them. (Received September 21, 2005)