

During my summer holiday in Sweden in 2005 I bought on a "loppis" (the name of a private small flea market in one's garden or garage) a small slide rule with case and manual, to be used for calculating liquid transport in concrete tube systems. The slide rule was put on the market by a firm called "ALFA-RÖR AB". At reverse side of the slide rule were printed about 10 names of concrete firms, probably sponsors of the slide rule. In the manual the name of the designer was mentioned, Nils G. Larsson, living in Växjö. Because there are several different slide rules in my collection to be used for calculating liquid transport in tube systems I was very much interested in backgrounds of this slide rule.

I found the addresses of almost all mentioned names and firms on this slide rule and in the manual by looking through telephone books and by Swedish internet. It happened to be that there were two persons by the same name Nils G. Larsson in Växjö. The total of letters sent by me was 13 in which I asked for further details and data about design and use of the slide rule. It took three months before a reaction reached me. And this reaction was finally the only one. But happy me, it was a letter from the designer himself, Mr. Nils Gunnar Larsson. It was the most important answer for me, so I was very happy with the information he gave and all answers on my questions.

After this letter I came in frequent letter and telephone contact with him. The result of all this was that I, after having discussed my proposal with Chris Hakkaart and having got his agreement, invited Mr. Larsson to come to the Netherlands in September to take part in our IM-2007 and give a lecture in the IM-program about backgrounds of his technical activities resulting in the design of his slide rule.

He was surprised to get this invitation and decided to accept the proposal to present a lecture. Consequently we will be informed by him during IM-2007 about this interesting specialism. It is for me the first time having heard about a Swedish designer of a special slide rule. The lucky find on that "loppis" had by all this an interesting follow up.

