

Daniel Toussaint deceased

On August 13th Daniel Toussaint was found dead in his apartment in Aulnay-sous-Bois (a Parisian suburb) by the local police who came to investigate because he was unreachable. Daniel died a natural death at the age of 72. He had no next of kin.

Daniel was well-known internationally as the most important French collector of calculating instruments, especially slide rules and planimeters. He was the uncontested expert on Graphoplex and had the largest collection of Graphoplex slide rules in the world. At IM2010, Marc Thomas presented an elaborate paper on Graphoplex slide rules written by Daniel. This presentation is included both in French and in English in the Proceedings of IM2010 and on the accompanying CD-ROM.

Daniel was also owner and web master of linealis.org, a website on calculating instrument in French, where he tried to share his vast knowledge on the subject. This knowledge fortunately lives on for the time being.

It is currently not known what will happen to his collection. If no relatives can be found, the French government will inherit all his possessions. All we can do in that case is hope that the collection will end up at the CNAM, the French science museum.

The future of his website is equally insecure. Please everyone check linealis.org for any materials you are interested in and download whatever you can.

Since the picture below of the most important French collectors of slide rules was taken in Orsay (near Paris) in 2010, too many of them have passed away:



Left to right: Philippe Deau († 2016), Étienne Pommel, Gonzalo Martin, Marc Thomas, Daniel Toussaint († 2019), Sigismond Kmiecik, Olivier Cassou († 2017)

