Jean-Louis Nicolas

[125, 586, 1967, 2021, 1, 3, 6]

Wiki: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Louis_Nicolas

Site: http://math.univ-lyon1.fr/~nicolas/

By Anna Zhebrun

In 1969, Jean-Louis Nicolas defended his PhD on *Ordre maximal d'un élément du groupe des permutations et "highly composite numbers"* in University of Paris under the guiding of Charles Pisot. Dr. Nicolas also spoke about 'highly composite numbers' at the Ramanujan conference in 1987.

Previously, in the "Collected papers" of Ramanujan there appeared an article published in Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society. However, because of a shortage of money the article wasn't published fully. Dr. Nicolas discovered the original complete document at Urbana-Champagne in June 1987 and published the typed version of this manuscript with annotations in 1996 in the *Ramanujan Journal 1*. Now this paper, along with other unpublished papers of Ramanujan can be found in the book The Lost Notebook and Other Unpublished Papers. Dr. Nicolas shared with me that 'The discovery of this hidden manuscript is certainly the most pleasant event of my mathematical life.'

Very recently, Dr. Nicolas published a paper *The sum of divisors function and the Riemann hypothesis*, where he also referenced the original paper of Ramanujan (Nicolas, 2021). It seems like this manuscript has been Dr. Nicolas' constant companion.

Additionally, Dr. Nicolas is the namesake of the Erdos-Nicolas numbers, which are numbers that are not perfect but can be expressed as a partial sum of their divisors (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erd%C5%91s%E2%80%93Nicolas_number). He was a frequent coauthor of Paul Erdos.

On January 14-19, 2002, there was a conference in honor of Dr. Nicolas' 60th birthday at the Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques in Marseille, the proceedings of which were published in *The Ramanujan Journal*.

Now, Dr. Nicolas works at Claude Bernard University of Lyon, France and continues to make valuable contributions to mathematics.