Subject: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Gary on Thu, 24 Aug 2023 14:58:08 GMT
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Some posts are floating around that he passed.

Reddit Post

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Thu, 24 Aug 2023 17:16:07 GMT
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Sad, hope they are wrong.
For now his website with all the good info on movements is offline. :(

Some info can be reached through the internet archive:
http://web.archive.org/web/20220129012138/http://www.ranfft.
de/cgi-bin/bidfun-db.cgi?10&ranfft&&2uswk

And a guy has an old backup which might be available shortly.
https://xchwarze.github.io/ranfft-db/app/#/

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by afire on Fri, 25 Aug 2023 14:28:58 GMT
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RIP. I knew nothing of the man, but regularly relied on his database for reference.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Gary on Fri, 25 Aug 2023 15:18:04 GMT
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Good news!
https://xchwarze.github.io/ranfft-db/app/#/

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Fri, 25 Aug 2023 18:01:08 GMT
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The copy is available through
https://ranfft.org/

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by JackW on Fri, 25 Aug 2023 18:46:29 GMT
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I interacted with Roland as did Trim (aka Kris). Apparently he had a serious health scare last year but survived it. Seems that all the places he would comment, have no activity for him since March, so I am concerned that he is gone. His DB is one of the most valuable assets on the internet, bar none but he was also a joy to chat with.

Rough week as also Joel Held of Twin City Supply also died.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Mon, 28 Aug 2023 16:09:43 GMT
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The pink pages are back…

http://www.ranfft.de/cgi-bin/bidfun-db.cgi?11&ranfft&amp ;0&2uswk

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Gary on Mon, 28 Aug 2023 17:26:15 GMT
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Sounds like he is still here with us...?

Chatterbox
Hi Folks,
apparently I was dead as a doornail since months, but only apparently. I'm running fairly again, enough to reanimate my watch activities again. It will take some time for all divisions, but it will be successful finally.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by JackW on Mon, 28 Aug 2023 17:46:43 GMT
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That is great news.

Went all “Mark Twain” on us.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Mon, 28 Aug 2023 18:21:45 GMT
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It is confirmed he died june 15th. It is still uncertainwhat will happen with the website.

Info on the uhrforum:
https://uhrforum.de/threads/ranfft-uhrwerkseite-offline.5477 91/page-4#post-8334208

Gary wrote on Mon, 28 August 2023 19:26Sounds like he is still here with us...?
Chatterbox
Hi Folks,
apparently I was dead as a doornail since months, but only apparently. I'm running fairly again, enough to reanimate my watch activities again. It will take some time for all divisions, but it will be successful finally.
That chatterbox text has been there for months and months. It isnt a new text.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by JackW on Tue, 29 Aug 2023 03:02:36 GMT
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That is not great news. Had hopes for a minute. He was a giant for which we all could see further.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by deni2s on Tue, 11 Feb 2025 00:25:48 GMT
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I also had a chance to have some conversations with Dr. Roland Ranfft. Still reading comments he left on many forums regarding watch movements.

Unfortunately the information on ranfft.org is not even close to original (looks like scraped information got parsed/interpreted not 100% correctly, introducing more issues).

If you want more reliable and searchable data source which is being vetted and constantly updated, please check the newly released The Watchmakers App I had working on for past year: thewatchmakersapp.com

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by JackW on Tue, 11 Feb 2025 16:40:44 GMT
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deni2s wrote on Mon, 10 February 2025 17:25If you want more reliable and searchable data source which is being vetted and constantly updated, please check the newly released The Watchmakers App I had working on for past year: thewatchmakersapp.com

Hello!

The person behind the curtain! Welcome. Am aware of the app that you are working on. Good and an appreciated effort on your part.

Welcome to the Gruen Forum.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Wed, 12 Feb 2025 22:31:42 GMT
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I mentioned your app to a few watch collectors/tinkerers. Who have broad collections. Got two reactions:
- shame there isnt an Andriod version to try
- too expensive subscription for the filters

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by deni2s on Sat, 15 Feb 2025 21:45:34 GMT
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Jenneke wrote on Wed, 12 February 2025 22:31I mentioned your app to a few watch collectors/tinkerers. Who have broad collections. Got two reactions:
- shame there isnt an Andriod version to try
- too expensive subscription for the filters
Thanks, that's a good feedback, even if it sounds like there is nothing positive in it.

- about Android - I know people are missing out - there are a lot of requests (same with my other apps) unfortunately I don't see that happening in near future.
As a workaround I can only suggest buy any iPhone/iPad released on 2018 or after - they are not so expensive, can find one easily for like 80 euros. App is running also on newer Macs.

- about subscription - how do those people calculate how much are those features worth? The price per month of one of two coffees is too expensive for watch collectors with broad collections, seriously? I can say that buying subscription price is much cheaper than spending time and money looking for all that info in old catalogues. Plus there were several months spent making all that data searchable, people should appreciate the effort. There are more features/data coming for subscribers (and non-subscribers too). And there is always 2 weeks free trial period for anyone.

You know, making an app like this is not an easy task, and making data not just reliable (as opposed to other well known free databases around), but also searchable - a lot of effort was spent (months), and more effort will be spent to improve that data constantly in future. I don't know how many subscribers would I need to cover the effort spent, but currently this app is running on pure enthusiasm. Basically I made it for myself, because I wanted to easily identify the movements so I can easily find parts for them. Of corse the more people will be using it, the more

movements will be identified and more parts available - more vintage watches will survive or have another life.

This app might not be the most popular one, but at least I affirm that it has the most accurate and vetted data in it compared to other databases, with hundreds of mistakes and omissions corrected (of corse that's hard to notice if you check one or two movements out of 10k+). And no one is forced to pay for subscriptions - already improved data is available for free.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by deni2s on Sat, 15 Feb 2025 22:55:37 GMT
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JackW wrote on Tue, 11 February 2025 16:40
Hello!

The person behind the curtain! Welcome. Am aware of the app that you are working on. Good and an appreciated effort on your part.

Welcome to the Gruen Forum.
Thanks for warm welcome!

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by Jenneke on Tue, 18 Feb 2025 21:52:38 GMT
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Quote:about Android - I know people are missing out - there are a lot of requests (same with my other apps) unfortunately I don't see that happening in near future.

I understand why you priced it this way, dont get me wrong. Time isnt free.

Quote:about subscription - how do those people calculate how much are those features worth? The price per month of one of two coffees is too expensive for watch collectors with broad collections, seriously?.
Since I am not your target group (bc I only collect Gruen watches), I can only make some assumptions.
I would compare it to other apps and take in account how much I would use it. Like Tomtom navigation 22 dollar a year or Spotify 11 dollar monthly. Or the old rannft website (free with ads). Or posting it on a forum for help id-ing.
I could see watchmakers focused on vintage repair pay the subscription because they would use it regularly. The broad collectors you could see as collecting cheap vintage watches from obscure brands. The time spent on research could just be part of the fun/hobby.

Anyway, I hope you will do well with your app.

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by deni2s on Fri, 21 Feb 2025 17:18:04 GMT
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I see your point and was considering a lot of things.

Let's ignore the paid features for now. Even in free plan the app has more to offer than old ranfft website - the information is updated, there are mistakes corrected, omissions filled, there are no ads at all. You can quickly search for movements by name, you can add interesting ones to your favorites list. The U.S. import codes list is the most precise and complete one around. I am not sure if I mentioned it earlier, but I have invested a lot in old catalogues and books, which are not easily to find, so there will be more calibers and information added which is basically not found anywhere else.

If you need to use advanced search filters as occasional broad collector - fine, you have two weeks free trial period, just do your searches and cancel subscription - it's easy to do from the app.

I understand that at the moment some users might not see a big value in subscription - that's totally fine. Some are subscribing just to support the work I am doing, some are early adopters. There will be more value in future, I don't want to promise anything, but the plan is to increase the returned value without increasing subscription price (no one likes price increases). The app is constantly updated (there have already been 5 updates since first release on the February 4th). Due to popular demand next app update will introduce first technical data sheets for selected calibers (already waiting for Apple review, so might be released in hours), and there are more features planned.

Few words about Android - even if device on average is cheaper than Apple devices, that might be one of the reasons why the development for it is much more expensive. There is more work involved for less money - you need to support a wide range of devices from different manufacturers, a lot of them are low end devices, Android devices are not getting updates as good as Apple devices, also I would have to worry more about performance, security and privacy. And it's a fact that android device users are less willing to pay for subscriptions/apps.

About vintage Gruens... I know the app currently can't compete with specific information found in the forums dedicated to specific themes. But I have some ideas about that and I am working on that. Filling the generic information gaps in the app (adding information about more calibers) is just the first step, so I would suggest to keep an eye on it (and I think I have some Gruen movements catalogue too if I am not mistaken, so there will be updates on that front too at some point).

Subject: Re: Roland Ranfft
Posted by deni2s on Fri, 23 May 2025 22:35:40 GMT
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Just wanted to share here some follow-up info since there was active discussion about The Watchmakers App.

I am thrilled to share that The Watchmakers App now contains the most comprehensive and up-to-date Rolex wristwatch movements calibers list.

Over the last two months in The Watchmakers App information about more than 160 Rolex movement calibers starting from early Aegler days was compiled and vetted with help of other experts in the field. Most of those calibers have also technical sheets attached, including from very rare and expensive old Rolex parts catalogues, which were not published online before.

While focusing mostly on Rolex movements, information about few related Gruen (by Aegler) movements was also updated.

Thanks to the subscribers to the paid plan the app is constantly being developed and watch movements database is being updated on regular basis - since the release just in the February of 2025 there were published 14 app updates containing user interface improvements, new features and hundreds of data corrections and updates in huge movement calibers database.

Apart from the searchable movements database with technical sheets and links to reliable resources with more in-depth information The Watchmakers App also contains the most complete U.S. import codes list and access to horological trade marks information thanks to collaboration with mikrolisk.de.