

Alembert 1717 to 1783



Alembert 1717 to 1783 was a French mathematician and the illegitimate son of Madam Tencin and an army officer, Louis Destouches. His mother left him on steps of a local church but he was sent to a home for homeless children. His father recognised his son's difficulties and placed him under the care of Madam Rousseau. He always thought of Rousseau as his mother.

However Alembert's father died when he was only nine years old but his father's family looked after his financial situation so that he could be educated.

In 1735 Alembert graduated and thought a career in law would suit him but his real thirst and enthusiasm was for mathematics and did this in his spare time. Three years later he did qualify for an advocate but did not pursue a career in this field but chose mathematics instead.

For most of his life he worked for the Paris Academy of Science and the French Academy.

He was well known to have a short fuse and loved to argue with most of his contemporaries.