



## MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 15, 2005

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### **MIT MUSEUM RECEIVES LANDMARK DONATION OF KEUFFEL & ESSER SLIDE RULE COLLECTION**

#### ***Massachusetts-based InteliCoat Technologies donates historic collection for research and exhibition***

**Cambridge, MA (January 2005)** —The MIT Museum is pleased to announce a landmark donation of more than 600 historic slide rules. After several months of negotiations, InteliCoat Technologies of South Hadley, Massachusetts, selected the MIT Museum to be the permanent repository of the Keuffel & Esser Company Slide Rule Collection. The collection, one of two publicly accessible company collections in the world, represents a major resource for scholars and collectors interested in engineering, mathematics, and design as well as technology and business.

Through a series of mergers, InteliCoat, which manufactures coated papers, films, and specialty substrates, acquired the remaining assets of Keuffel & Esser (K&E) of Hoboken, New Jersey. Founded in 1867, K&E was the most significant manufacturer of slide rules in the United States. At InteliCoat, the unusual collection caught the attention of Robert Champigny, president and CEO, and Charles E. Quinby, director of quality, commercialization, and technical support. They decided to find the collection an appropriate home. A local specialist appraised the collection and provided a list of museums interested in slide rules, including the MIT Museum.

"We feel there's no better place than MIT, one of the world's premier engineering schools, for this historic collection," states Quinby. "And we are very excited that it will be preserved and accessible. Visitors, especially younger people such as my children, will learn to appreciate the slide rule's role in shaping our world."

"It is a privilege to serve as the first steward of this collection," says Deborah Douglas, the museum's curator of science and technology. "It has a strong emotional appeal to the

MIT community, but to be provocative, one could argue that the slide rule is the most important technology of the 20 th century that historians have not studied. Our goal is to preserve and present this magnificent collection of slip sticks for the widest possible audience."

The Museum has begun to catalog and document the collection and conducted initial exhibition planning workshops at the Museum in December 2004.