



*Soroptimist International
Club Perugia*



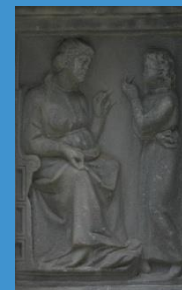
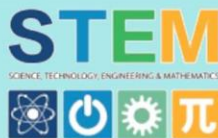
**Giornata Internazionale
delle Donne e delle Ragazze nella Scienza**

"Le Matematiche, queste (dis)conosciute"

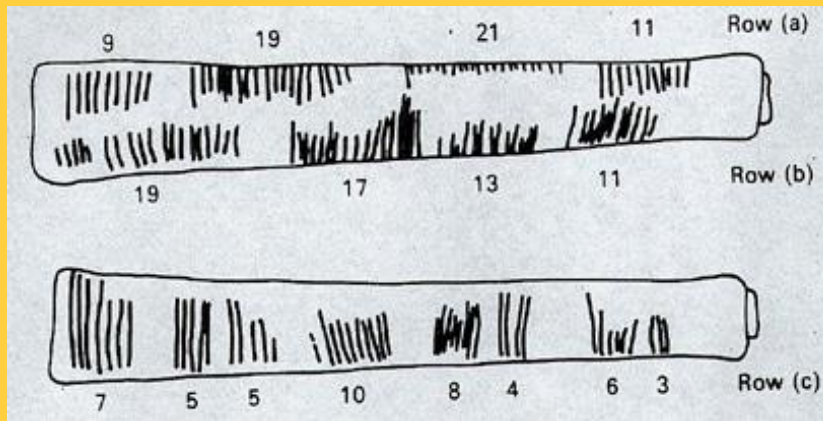
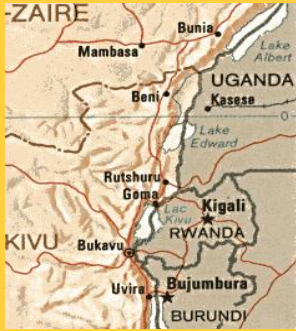
Maria Clara Nucci

*Professore Ordinario Fisica Matematica
Università degli Studi di Bologna*

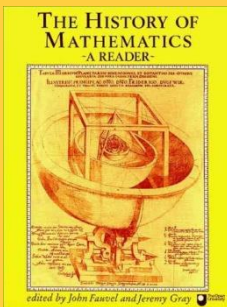
**martedì 7 febbraio 2023, ore 9,00 - 11,00
Auditorium I.S.S. Cavour, Marconi, Pascal
via Assisana 40/D - Piscille, Perugia**



Scarso materiale (principalmente trasmissione orale)



- pag. 5 → [J. De Heintzelin](#) 1962
- pag. 6 → Marshack, 1972
- pag. 11 → Waerden, 1983
- pag. 12 → Knorr, 1985



[Ishango Bone](#)
 25000 a.C.
[Museo di Scienze Naturali di Brussels :](#)
[Mostra, Osso, Mappa, J. De Heintzelin](#)



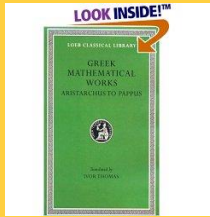
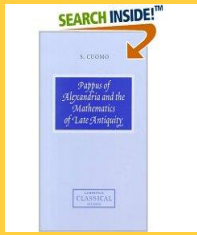
Pappo di Alessandria (290-350)



Terme di Diocleziano

“Synagoge” o “Collezione matematica”

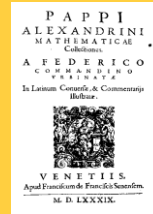
8 libri



F. Hultsch
1879



X sec.



1589



1588



1660



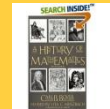
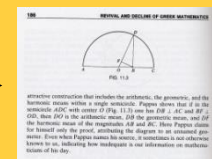
Libro I riguarda aritmetica [perduto];

Libro II metodo di Apollonio per esprimere numeri grandi (miriadi) [quasi perduto];

Libro III *Parte 1*: problema di trovare due medie proporzionali tra due rette;

?Pandrosion? *Parte 2*: costruzione geometrica delle medie matematica, geometrica e armonica

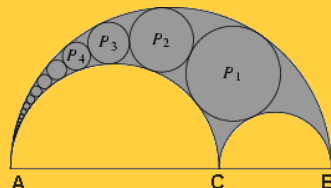
$$H(x_1, x_2) = \frac{2x_1x_2}{x_1+x_2} \quad \text{OR} \quad H = \frac{G^2}{A}$$



Parte 3: collezione di paradossi geometrici;

Parte 4: inscrive in una sfera ognuno dei cinque poliedri regolari;

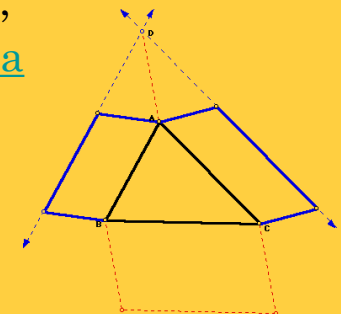
Libro IV proprietà di varie curve, generalizzazione del teorema di Pitagora e del “coltello del calzolaio” di Archimede;



H.P. Boas
2006



H. Sefrin-Weis
2010





Silvia Ronchey



Ipazia di Alessandria (370-415)



(347-395)



Elia Galla Placidia (390-450)



Mausoleo a Ravenna

Il padre Teone (ultimo direttore del Museo di Alessandria) la indirizzò su questa via, come lui stesso ci tramanda nell'intestazione del III libro del suo commento al Sistema matematico di Tolomeo, troviamo scritto:

"Commento di Teone di Alessandria al terzo libro del Sistema matematico di Tolomeo. Edizione controllata dalla filosofa Ipazia, mia figlia".



M. Deakin 1994

Tutto il lavoro di Ipazia è andato perduto, eccetto i suoi titoli:

- Un **"Commentario sull'Arithmetica di Diofanto di Alessandria"**
- Un trattato in 8 volumi sulle "Coniche" di Apollonio
- Parte dell'edizione di un'opera di suo padre: il *Commentario sull'Almagesto di Tolomeo*.
- **"Canone astronomico"**, in esso si trovano interessanti scoperte compiute dalla donna a proposito del moto degli astri

- Si interessò anche di **meccanica** e **tecnologia**, disegnò strumenti scientifici tra cui un **astrolabio piatto**, uno strumento per misurare il livello dell'acqua (=un apparato per distillarlo) (=un **idrometro** di ottone per determinare la densità di un liquido).

Fu a capo della scuola neoplatonica di Alessandria (il Serapeo di Alessandria)

Distruzione del Serapeo ad opera di Teofilo, patriarca di Alessandria

391



Teofilo S. Cirillo



3/10/07



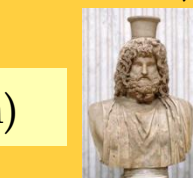
Lady's comet 1786



M. Hoskin 2005



C. Herschel (1750-1848)



Uranio 1781



(1536-1586)

TRATTATO
DELL'VSO
ET DELLA FABBRICA
DELL'ASTROLABIO.

Di F. Egnatio Danti dell'Or. di S. Domenico.
CON L'AGGIUNTA DEL PLANISFERIO
DEL ROIAS.



ALL'ILLVSTRISS. ET REVEREN.
S. DON FERDINANDO CARDINAL
DE MEDICI.

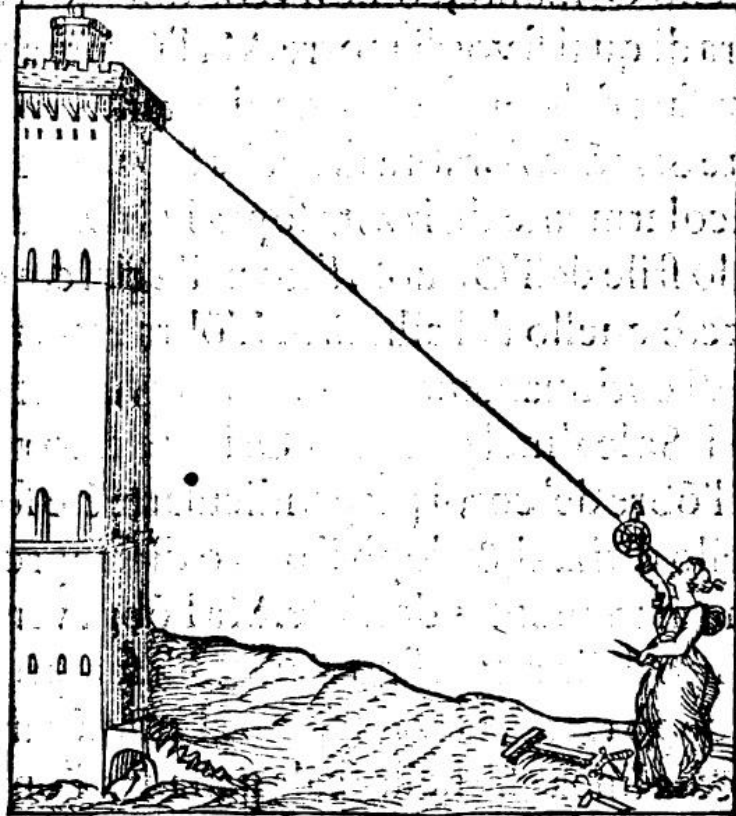


In Fiorenza Appresso i Giunti.
M. D. LXVIII.

CON LICENZA ET PRIVILEGIO.

1241

TERZA PARTE DEB V



Teodora Danti?



per maggior chiarezza, vi trouerra anco sotto ciascun capitolo vtili annotationi fatte gia dal detto Auol mio, il quale tradusse questo libretto nell'anno 1498. nel tempo della peste mentre egli s'era ritirato con la sua famiglia per fuggire così contagiosa influenza in vna solitaria villa, nel qual tempo l'insegnò a i suoi figliuoli, & fu spetialmente appresa con gran profitto (il che par cosa marauigliosa) da Teodora sua maggior figliuola la qual poi con progresso di tempo fece di queste scienze tale acquisto, che fu celebre sommanente nella patria nostra. Ne saperrei tacere come io di piccola età imparassi da essa i primi principii di questa scienza oltra a quello che mi fu insegnato da Giulio mio padre veri heredi delle virtù di Dante lor genitore. Il quale così fu chiamato vniuersal

Estratto dal Proemio scritto da Ignazio Danti

Viueno adunque in così nobile ocio parte per mio diporto, & parte per instituire i miei figliuoli in così nobil' arte & da me con tanto di letto seguita, mi posi con accurata diligenza a mostrar loro i primi principii di essa con dichiararli il breue trattato della Sfera del Sacrobosco, & perche da essi potesse piu facilmente apprendersi volsi dal Latino tradurla nella nostra commune lingua. Ma quello che mi apporto marauiglia è l'hauer veduto il profitto che in essa ha fatto la mia maggior figliuola a cui voi imponeste il nome di Teodora tenè dola al battesimo, essendo ch'ella oltre alla Sfera di gia intende e l' Astrolabio, & l' Almanache non mediocrementi. Et perche a questi

Estratto dalla Dedicatoria scritto da Piervincenzo Danti



Ome vadan errati coloro, che credono, e che tuttora ripetono, ed io stesso, che l'ho detto, e creduto doverli solamente alle donne la spola, il naspo, l'ago, il fuso, e l'arcolajo, cel fan conoscere tanti soggetti illustri del loro sesso, che lasciate

le naturali debolezze, e le comuni vanitadi si diedero tutte agli studj, e divennero per l'esercizio delle nobil arti, e delle belle lettere, e per la cognizione delle facultà più

K 2

subli-

V I T E
DE
PITTORI, SCULTORI,
ED

ARCHITETTI
PERUGINI

SCRITTE, E DEDICATE

ALLA MAESTA'

DI

C A R L O
EMANUEL

Re di Sardegna

DA LIONE PASCOLI

IN ROMA, MDCCXXXII.

Per Antonio de' Roffi, nella Strada del Seminario Romano.

CON LICENZA DE' SUPERIORI.



Christine
de Pizan

(1364-1430)



DI PELLEGRINO DANTI PITTORE,
ED ARCHITETTO CIVILE.



Econdo figlio di Giulio, siccome nella di lui vita detto abbiamo, fu Pellegrino, e negli anni 1537. venne al mondo. Pose a questo piu ch'è agli altri suoi nipoti affetto Teodora, e voleva coll'ajuto anche del padre farlo un bravo matematico, un bravo architetto, ed un bravo pittore. Appena egli cominciato aveva gli studj della grammatica, che gli fece dal padre dar lezione di architettura, ed ella stessa gli spiegava gli elementi d'Euclide, e l'istruiva nel disegno. Faceva il fanciullo assai aperto di mente profitto non ordinario, e come era di natura forte, e ben complesso, di bellissima indole, e d'avvenente disposizione in lui così il

T 2

pa-

Maria Gaetana Agnesi

[1718-1799]

(S)parlano di lei



Nasce a Milano il 16 maggio del 1718 da Anna Brivio e Pietro Agnesi.
A 11 anni parla sei lingue (latino, greco, francese, tedesco, inglese, ebraico).
Nel 1733, muore la madre e il padre si risposa.

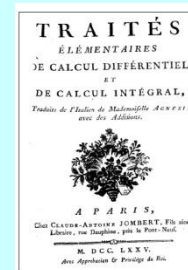
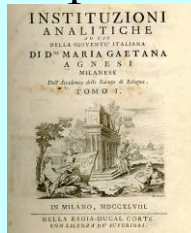
Nel 1737, Agnesi, per volontà del padre, passa agli studi di filosofia e matematica.

Nel 1738, stampa « *Propositiones Philosophicae* », contenente 191 tesi, riguardanti questioni di logica, botanica, cosmologia, filosofia, meccanica.

“Accanto alle parti della filosofia si devono accostare le discipline matematiche che a buon diritto, sopra le altre, rivendicano a sé il nome di scienza, dal momento che in modo esattissimo ci conducono al raggiungimento e alla contemplazione della verità e non vi è niente che possa essere più interessante.”

Nel 1740, inizia un periodo di studi in collaborazione con padre Ramiro Rampinelli.

Nel 1748, stampa « *Instituzioni Analitiche ad uso della gioventù italiana* » e lo dedica all'Imperatrice Maria Teresa d'Austria.



Nel 1749, Papa Benedetto XIV le offre la cattedra di pubblica lettrice all'Università di Bologna, ma non ci andrà mai:

“...siamo in grado di poter francamente sostenere, ch'ella è senza dubbio nel numero de' primi Professori dell'Analisi, che la sua opera sarà molto utile, che contribuirà alla riputazione letteraria dell'Italia, e della nostra Accademia delle Scienze di Bologna, a cui ella è con tanto nostro contento aggregata...”

Nel 1752, muore il padre e Agnesi si dedica completamente alle opere di carità.

Nel 1772, il cardinale Pozzobonelli le offre l'incarico di Visitatrice e Direttrice del reparto donne di un nuovo albergo dei poveri, il “Pio Albergo Trivulzio”, dove si trasferisce nel 1783 e dove muore il 9 gennaio 1799.



Carlo Goldoni

(Venezia, 25 febbraio 1707 – Parigi, 6 febbraio 1793)

Il medico olandese

Commedia di 5 atti in versi

(Prima rappresentazione a Milano nel 1756)

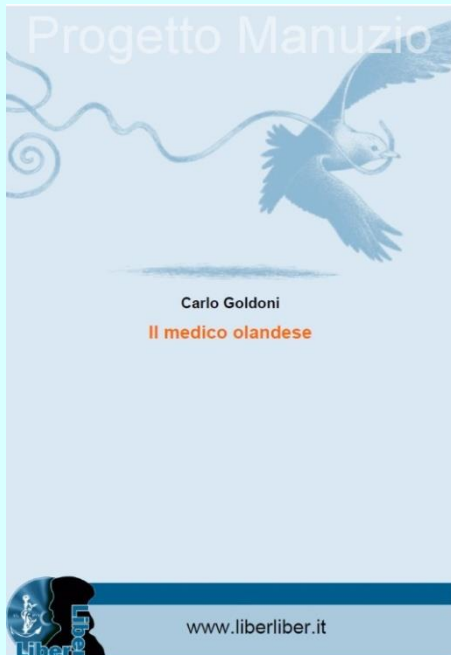
Carolina. **Vuol la padrona un libro. È di là che mi aspetta.**

Guden. **Che libro vi ha richiesto?**

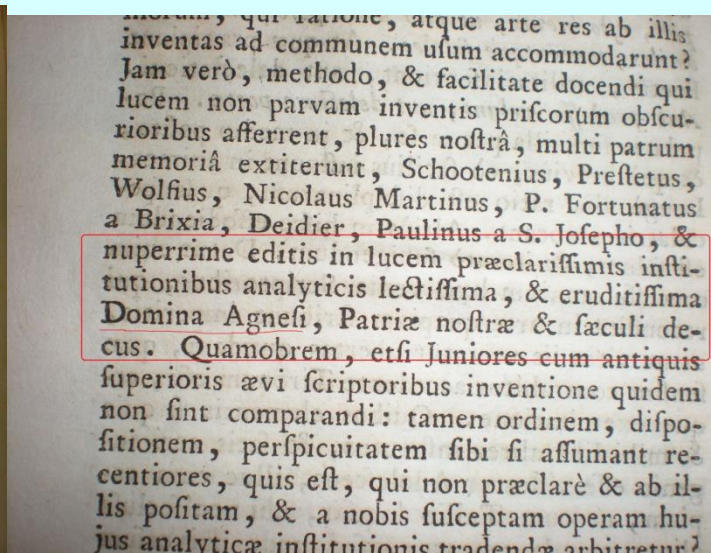
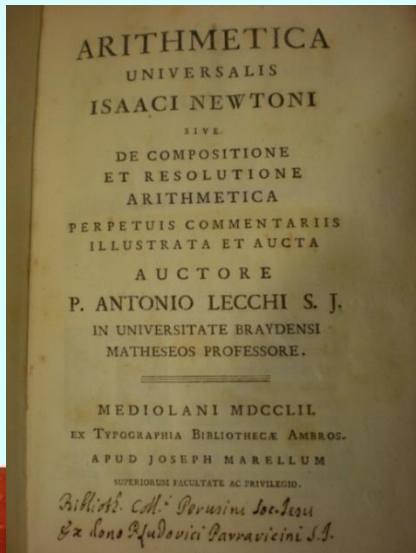
Carolina. **Certo libro italiano
Che tratta delle Analisi, venuto da Milano.**

Guden. **Han giovinette ancora le femmine olandesi
Di tai studi difficili i loro geni accesi?**

Carolina. **Voi vi maravigliate che la padrona mia
Inclini al dolce studio della geometria?
Stupitevi piuttosto, che con saper profondo
Prodotto abbia una donna un sì gran libro al mondo.
È italiana l'autrice, signor, non è olandese,
Donna illustre, sapiente, che onora il suo paese;
Ma se trovansi altrove scarsi i seguaci suoi,
Ammirasi il gran libro, e studiasi da noi.**



Maria Gaetana Agnesi vista da Lecchi



1752



siete in: [home](#) > [onomasticon](#) > [Giovanni Antonio Lecchi](#)

IL PROGETTO
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enti partecipanti
comitato scientifico
collabora al progetto
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- monografie
- opera omnia
- libri elementari
- abilitazioni SNS
- contributi vari
serie *mathematica*

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CERCA NEL SITO

Giovanni Antonio Lecchi (1702 - 1776)

Milano, 17 novembre 1702 - ivi, 24 maggio 1776.

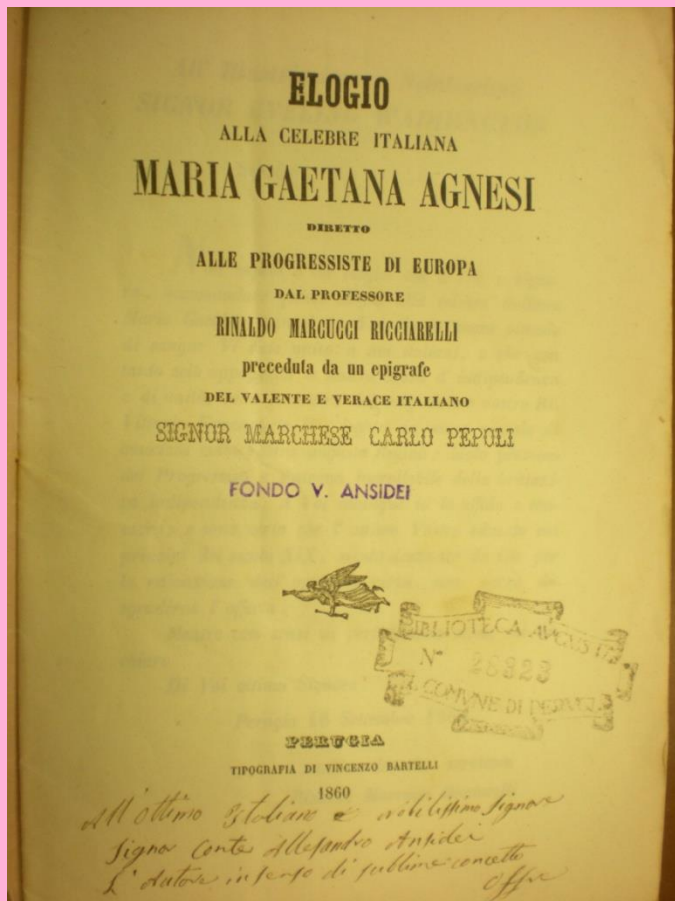
Intraprese la carriera ecclesiastica entrando a far parte, dal 1718, dell'Ordine dei Gesuiti. Intorno alla metà degli anni trenta fu insegnante di eloquenza in vari collegi dell'ordine (Milano, Pavia, Vercelli) prima di assumere l'insegnamento di filosofia a Brera. Proprio a Brera Lecchi fu docente per tutta la vita, passando ben presto all'insegnamento della matematica, che tenne per più di vent'anni, dal 1738 al 1760, cui successivamente si aggiunse quello di idraulica, dal 1760 al 1773. Agli anni cinquanta risale la produzione di una serie di testi che, sommati, vanno a costituire un corso esaustivo di geometria, algebra, trigonometria e analisi elementare, esposti con finalità prevalentemente didattiche: gli *Elementa geometriæ theoreticæ et practicæ ad usum Universitatis Braidensis*, usciti a Milano tra il 1753 e il 1754; gli *Elementa trigonometriæ theoreico-practicæ et sphaericæ*, Milano 1756; e infine il *De sectionibus conicis*, Milano 1758. Proprio a partire dal periodo successivo alla pubblicazione dei suoi più rilevanti lavori in ambito matematico, Lecchi manifestò l'inclinazione, che lo occuperà d'altra parte per il resto della vita, a rivolgersi a questioni di natura più eminentemente tecnica, con particolare attenzione a problemi di ingegneria idraulica. Nei due decenni a venire, pur mantenendo con sostanziale continuità la propria attività di docente, fu impegnato nell'elaborazione di numerose perizie in fatto di fiumi, argini, canali, rive e ogni sorta di questione legata alla gestione delle acque, non solo all'interno dei confini del territorio di Milano, ma anche fuori: tra il 1765 e il 1768, Lecchi ebbe ad esempio un ruolo centrale (attraverso la partecipazione a una commissione valutatrice e l'ideazione di un brillante progetto di inalsamento e arginatura) nel risolvere in maniera definitiva una secolare controversia tra Bologna e Ferrara circa il corso del fiume Reno. A questa seconda fase della carriera di Lecchi risale la pubblicazione del suo ultimo lavoro, uscito proprio nell'anno della morte, 1776, col titolo *Trattato de' canali navigabili*, in cui l'autore accanto alla discussione di principi di carattere teorico e generale propose numerosi esempi derivati dalle esperienze maturate durante lo svolgimento dei suoi incarichi come idrografo e ingegnere idraulico.

Riferimenti bibliografici:

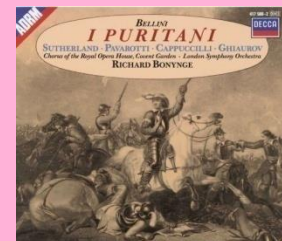
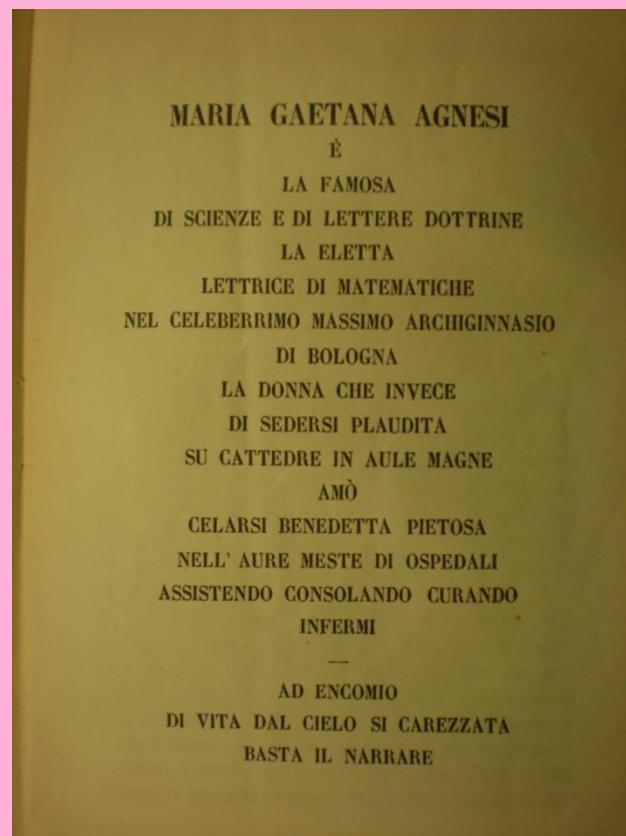
- E. Brambilla, in *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*, Roma, 2005, vol. 64, s. v. 'Lecchi, Giovanni Antonio', pp. 267-269



Maria Gaetana Agnesi vista da Ricciarelli



1860



Canto XIX Al Conte Carlo Pepoli

Questo affannoso e travagliato sonno
Che noi vita nomiam, come sopporti,
Pepoli mio? di che speranze il core
Vai sustentando? in che pensieri, in quanto
O gioconde o moleste opre dispensi
L'ozio che ti lasciàr gli avi remoti,
Grave retaggio e faticoso?



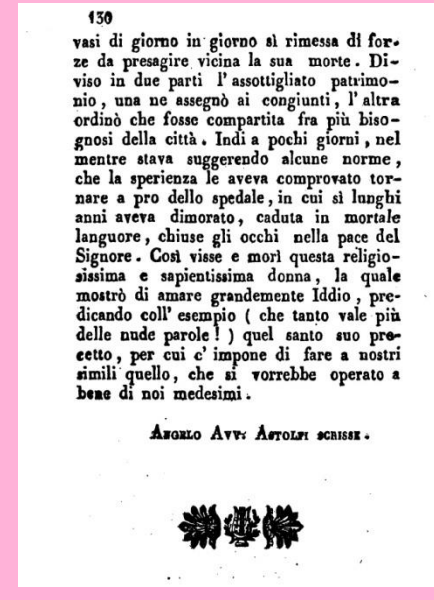
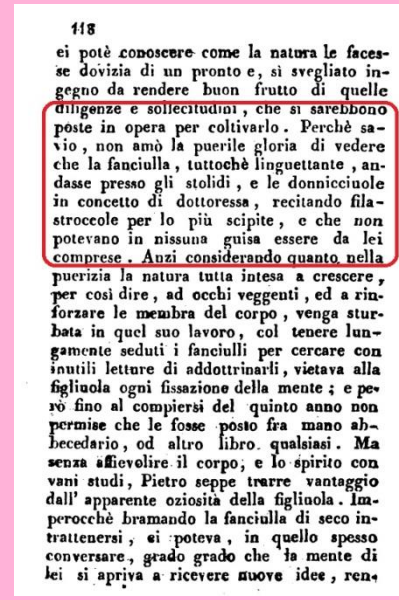
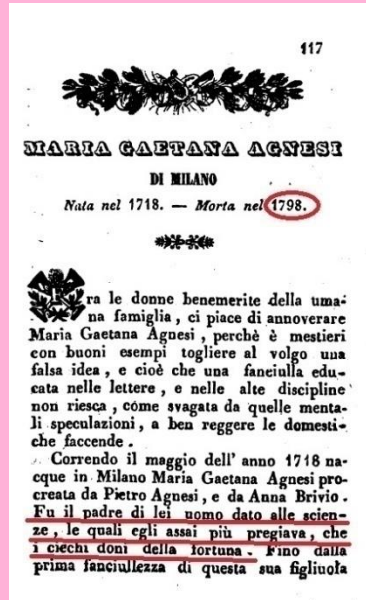
Senato della Repubblica

Carlo Pepoli (1796-1881)

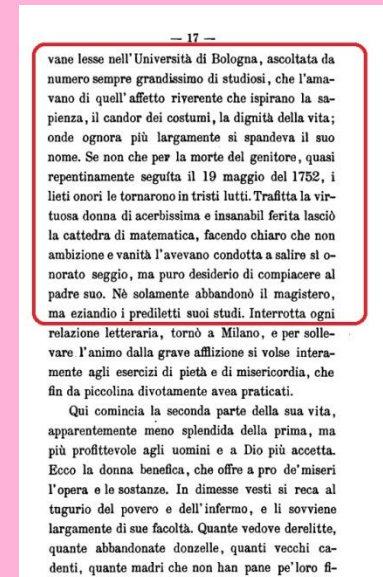
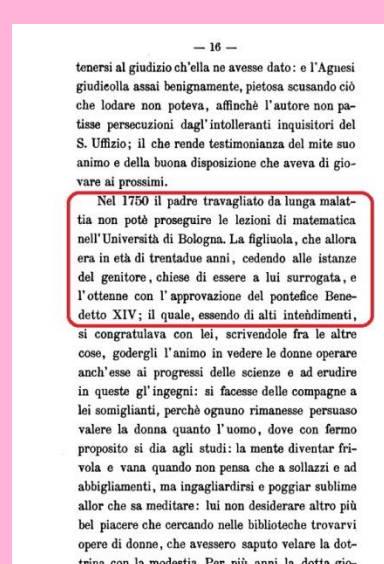
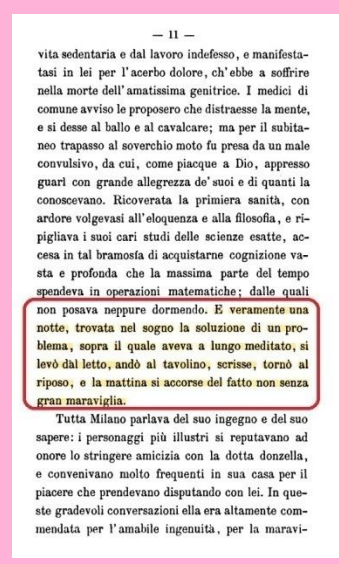
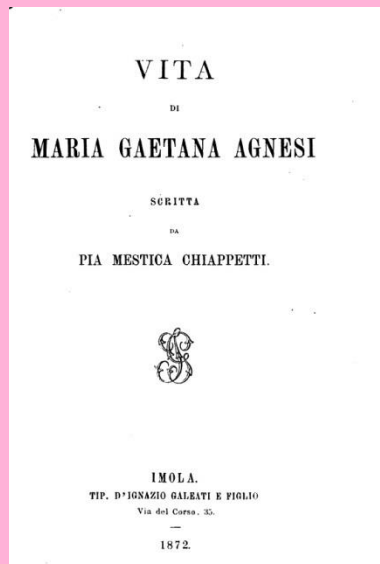
Conte, Docente Universitario,
Giornalista, **librettista**, possidente
Partecipò ai moti del 1831 e del 1848.
[Curiosità:] **Giacomo Leopardi** dedicò
la famosa epistola in versi al senatore.

Ancora sul padre uomo dato alla scienza, oppure professore

1841



1872



Her father was a professor of mathematics. She was a sleepwalker.

THE WITCH OF AGNESI—EXORCISED

By Robert C. Kennedy, *Presidents College, Presidents, Rhode Island*

IN the summer of 1665, at an informal luncheon attended by a prominent algebrist, the name of Maria Gaetana Agnesi and the name known as the Witch of Agnesi were mentioned. The algebrist asked: "Wasn't this curve called the 'Witch' because Agnesi knew how to read and write when this was unusual for women? Wasn't she learned at the stake in the thirteenth century?" Now, Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718-1799) died quietly in a home for the aged where she had been director of women for many years. Her tombstone was inscribed "noted for piety, learning and good works." These facts are known to contemporary historians of mathematics. The gross errors of our algebrist are not likely to be repeated, but the legends concerning Agnesi and the Witch seem to die slowly. Perhaps this justifies the appearance of yet another note on the subject.

Maria Gaetana Agnesi was born in Milan, Italy, on 16 May 1718, the first of Pietro Agnesi's twenty-one children. She was early given an excellent education in languages, philosophy, and the sciences, and her father often called on her to entertain his guests by engaging in disputation with learned men on philosophy and science. When she was twenty years old, her desire to enter a convent was denied by her father, but she obtained permission to lead a more retired life. Her study of mathematics then led to the publication in 1748

of her *Institutione Analitica de Una della Quattro Figure* (in two volumes, printed on a press set up in her home), a systematic text of algebra, analytic geometry, and calculus. This work was highly valued; the French Academy of Sciences called it "the most complete and well written of its kind." (On the nomination of Pope Benedict XIV, her name was added to the faculty roll by the senate of the University of Bologna; a diploma in this effect, dated 5 October 1750, was sent to her by the pope. She never heeded these despite urgings to do so from many in Bologna, including the woman physician, Laura Bassi Visconti (1711-1776). After the death of Agnesi's father, in 1752, she followed her inclination toward charitable work, including nursing poor sick women in her own room. In 1771, on the establishment in Milan of the Pio Albergo Trivulzio, a home for the aged, the archbishop, Cardinal Pombalinski, asked her to serve as a visitor and director of women. She added this to her other charitable activities, being known for her generosity, humility, and self-denial. She went to live at the "Trivulzio" in 1783 and stayed there until her death on 9 January 1799.)

Two legends about Agnesi that have persisted are that she actually taught at Bologna and that she became a nun. That the second of these is true was pointed out by Sister Mary Thomas A. Kempis [7]. But it is interesting to note that



1939

Sister Mary Thomas A Kempis Kloyda



1936

A HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS

BY PHILIPPS CAROL, Ph.D.
 FELLOW OF AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MATHEMATICS TEACHERS

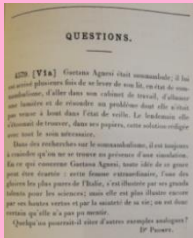
SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
 LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1919

Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718-1799) of Milan, distinguished as a logician, mathematician, and philosopher, died the mathematical chair at the University of Bologna during her father's sickness. Agnesi was a non-mathematical. Several times it happened to her that she would solve some problem she had left incomplete when awake. In the morning she was surprised to find the solution carefully worked out on paper. In 1748 she published her *Institutione Analitica*, which was translated into English in 1801. "The 'Witch of Agnesi' or 'Versiera' is a cubic curve $y = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$ traced in Agnesi's *Analitica*, but given earlier by F. Fermat in the form $(a^2 - y^2)^2 = ax^3$ and also discussed by Simon Stevin in the *Quadrature generale d'Arquedeau*, Paris, 1705 and 1716." It was known from Gauss to Leibniz. In 1913, according to *Notions sur la Machine Analytique* of Charles Babbage, it was discovered. In 1948 Gauss published it in *Flour de Flore parabolica*. He considered curves in a plane of the type $y = ax^3$, and also curves on a sphere. Babbage showed why this line are due to both Halsted (1895), E. W. Hyde (1913), H. Wiedeman (1907).

1915



1969

480 The Mathematics Teacher | October 1969



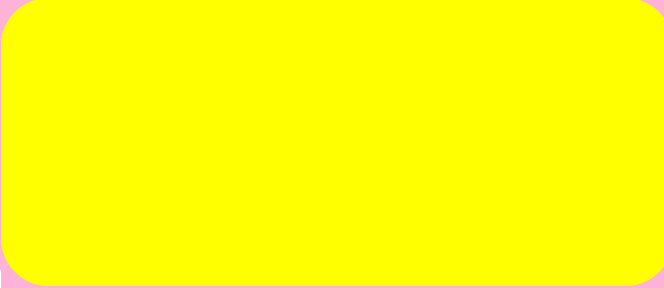
1974

at the age of five, was familiar with Greek, German and Spanish by stress and pronunciation but Proprietor Philosophic or twenty. Her would have been peculiar with the frequent occurrence of today for at the age of nine she wrote a Latin treatise in defence of Euclid's method on a page.

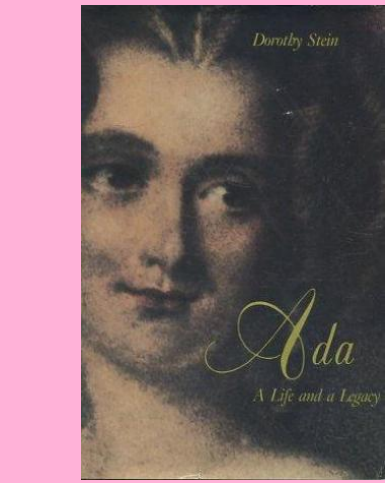
...for members of her sex. Maria's father who encouraged Maria to read up on scientific and philosophical questions and then debate them with the learned men of Bologna. Maria had a younger sister, Maria Antonia, who was also a mathematician and a writer of poems.

...in the history of the age of the enlightenment... that on several occasions she went to her study in a non-mathematical sense, made a light, and solved a problem she had left incomplete when awake. In the morning she would be surprised to find the solution carefully worked out on paper.

...Maria Agnesi lived to the century following Newton and Leibniz, the age when progress in mathematics was being made at a rapid pace. Mathematicians, differences, and the Method of Fluxions were foremost in the minds of the best...



La terza donna matematica ??



1985

All women who have published mathematics hitherto have shown knowledge, and the power of getting it, but no one, except perhaps (I speak doubtfully) Maria Agnesi, has wrestled with difficulties and

*An eighteenth-century mathematical writer, appointed in 1750 to fill her father's chair as professor of mathematics at the University of Bologna upon his illness.

The Much Desired Great Unknown 83

shown a man's strength in getting over them. The reason is obvious: the very great tension of mind which they require is beyond the strength of a woman's physical power of application. Lady L. has unquestionably as much power as would require all the strength of a man's constitution to bear the fatigue of thought to which it will unquestionably lead her. . . .

On 21 January 1844, the English mathematician Augustus De Morgan wrote a confidential letter to Lady Noel Byron about her 28-year-old daughter, Augusta Ada King, the Countess of Lovelace, who De Morgan had tutored as a private pupil in various areas of advanced mathematics for about eighteen months in the early 1840s. In his letter while he was at pains to stress that "I have never expressed to Lady Lovelace my opinion of her as a student of these matters" [i.e., mathematics], De Morgan wrote:

I feel bound to tell you that the power of thinking on these matters which Lady Lovelace has always shown from the beginning of my correspondence with her, has been something so utterly out of the common way for any beginner, man or woman, that this power must be duly considered by her friends, with reference to the question whether they should urge or check her obvious determination to try not only to reach but to get beyond, the present bounds of knowledge. 1

Not content with such high praise, to reinforce his point he continued:

Had any young [male] beginner, about to go to Cambridge, shown the same power[s], I should have prophesied . . . that they would have certainly made him an original mathematical investigator, perhaps of first rate eminence (L.B. 339, ADM to Lady Byron, 21 Jan. 1844, f. 2).

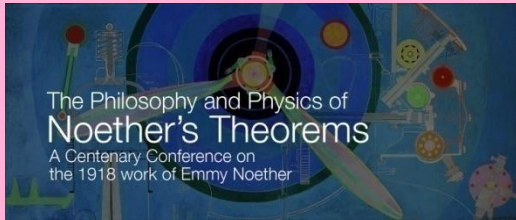
De Morgan's letter was written a few months after the publication of the paper for which Lovelace is now famous—her translation, with extensive appendices, of Luigi Menabrea's *Notions sur la Machine Analytique de M. Charles Babbage* (Lovelace, 1843).



2017

Thomas De Morgan 1844

EMMY NOETHER'S 1918 PAPER



IAMP News Bulletin
October 2018



International Association of Mathematical Physics



(1882- 1935)

Invariante Variationsprobleme.

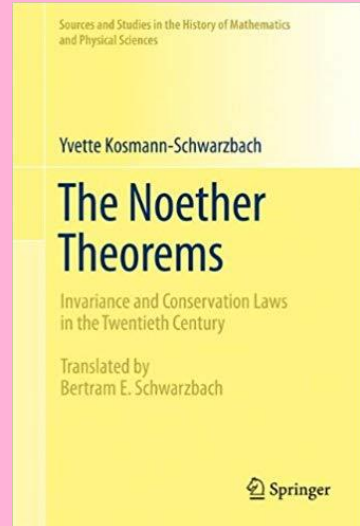
(F. Klein zum fünfzigjährigen Doktorjubiläum.)

Von

Emmy Noether in Göttingen.

Vorgelegt von F. Klein in der Sitzung vom 26. Juli 1918¹⁾.

Es handelt sich um Variationsprobleme, die eine kontinuierliche Gruppe (im Lieschen Sinne) gestatten; die daraus sich ergebenden Folgerungen für die zugehörigen Differentialgleichungen finden ihren allgemeinsten Ausdruck in den in § 1 formulierten, in den folgenden Paragraphen bewiesenen Sätzen. Über diese aus Variationsproblemen entspringenden Differentialgleichungen lassen sich viel präzisere Aussagen machen als über beliebige, eine Gruppe gestattende Differentialgleichungen, die den Gegenstand der Lieschen Untersuchungen bilden. Das folgende beruht also auf einer Verbindung der Methoden der formalen Variationsrechnung mit denen der Lieschen Gruppentheorie. Für spezielle Gruppen und Variationsprobleme ist diese Verbindung der Methoden nicht neu; ich erwähne Hamel und Herglotz für spezielle endliche, Lorentz und seine Schüler (z. B. Fokker), Weyl und Klein für spezielle unendliche Gruppen²⁾. Insbesondere sind die zweite Kleinsche Note und die vorliegenden Ausführungen gegenseitig durch einander beein-



1935

HERRMANN WEYL 219

Mathematische Annalen. That this work was never explicitly recognized may have caused her some pain.

It was only too easy for those who met her for the first time, or had ~~previously had some acquaintance, to mistake her quiet and to make fun~~ at her expense. She was heavy of build and loud of voice, and it was often not easy for one to get the floor in competition with her. She ~~grasped mightily, and not as the scribes.~~ She was a rough and simple soul, but her heart was in the right place. Her frankness was never offensive in the least degree. In everyday life she was most unassuming and utterly unselfish; she had a kind and friendly nature. Nevertheless she enjoyed the recognition paid her; she could answer with a banal smile like a young girl to whom one had whispered a compliment. No one could contend that the Graces had stood by her cradle; but if ~~Weyl Göttingen often chaffingly referred to her as "der Noether"~~ (with the masculine article), it was also done with a respectful recognition of her power as a creative thinker who seemed to have broken through the barrier of sex. She possessed a rare humor and a sense of sociability; it was in her apartments could be most pleasurable. But she was a considered being who was thrown out of balance by the overweight of her mathematical talent. Essential aspects of human life remained undeveloped in her among them. I suppose, the entire, which, it were to believe, the poets is for many of us the strongest source of emotions, raptures, desires, and sorrows, and conflicts. Thus she sometimes gave the impression of an unwieldy child, but she was a kind-hearted and courageous being, ready to help, and capable of the deepest loyalty and affection. And of all I have known, she was certainly one of the happiest.

Comparison with the other woman mathematicians of world renown, ~~Sonya Kovalevskaya, suggests itself.~~ Sonya had certainly the more complete personality, but was also of a much less happy nature. In order to pursue her studies Sonya had to defy the opposition of her parents, and entered into a marriage in name only, although it did not quite remain so. Emmy Noether had, as I have already indicated, neither a rebellious nature nor Bohemian leanings. ~~Sonya possessed feminine charm, intellect, and wit, a social success were by no means unattainable to her.~~ She was a creature of tension and whims; mathematics made her unhappy, whereas Emmy found the greatest pleasure in her work. Sonya followed literary pursuits outside of mathematics. In her later years in Paris, as she worked feverishly on a paper to be submitted for a mathematical prize, Sonya, alluding in a letter to a certain M. with whom she was in love, wrote "The fat M. occupies all the room on my couch and in my thoughts." Such was Sonya; you see the tension be-



(1885-1955)

Gino Loria (1862-1954),
Donne matematiche; Les femmes mathématiciennes.



... Osserviamo soltanto come la sorte di Gaetana AGNESI appaia simile al destino dell'alpinista disgraziato che giunto tutto intriso di sangue, estenuato, palpitante al termine di una pericolosa ascensione, crede di avere raggiunta la sospirata mèta; ma, girando attorno ansiosamente lo sguardo, se ne trova invece separato da un abisso profondo, che gli fa perdere la speranza dell'altezza; e riconosce, con tardivo e sterile rimpianto, come un'altra strada più comoda, più breve e scevra di pericoli avrebbe potuto guidarlo sicuramente a raggiungerla.

... in generale sulla vita delle donne matematiche si conosce troppo poco per poter giudicare quanto **vi fosse in esse di patologico**. È un'esagerazione il parlare di genio matematico nella donna. Nessuno dubiterà che la matematica si sarebbe svolta altrettanto felicemente anche se non fossero vissute le donne matematiche, che enumerammo [Ipazia, ..., S. Germaine, S. Kowalevski, E. Noether]. Nessuna ha somministrato qualche cosa di essenziale, nessuna ha concepiti nuovi metodi. **Furono buone scolare, nulla più.**



SCIENZA A DUE VOCI

Le donne nella scienza italiana dal Settecento al Novecento

- Home
- Chi Siamo
- Biografie
- Galleria



Eva Mameli Calvino con alcune colleghe in laboratorio

Cerca [Cerca](#)

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 Avete un nuovo nominativo, una data, un'immagine, una qualsiasi segnalazione per arricchire il nostro sito?
scienzaa2voci@unibo.it

[vedi tutte le biografie >>](#)



Cornaro Piscopia Elena

Elena Cornaro Piscopia è famosa per essere stata la prima donna a laurearsi nel mondo: conseguì la laurea in filosofia all'Università di Padova il 25...

- [Esplora album \(6 foto\) >](#)
- [Vai alla biografia >](#)



Zanotti Angiola Anna Maria

Nate a Bologna rispettivamente nel 1693 e nel 1703, Teresa Maria e Angiola Anna Maria, figlie del poeta e storico dell'arte Giampietro Zanotti...

- [Esplora album \(4 foto\) >](#)
- [Vai alla biografia >](#)



Foggia Moretti Amalia

Amalia Foggia Moretti ha cominciato ad acquisire notorietà, a Milano, fin dai primi anni della sua attività come pediatra presso l'ambulatorio della...

- [Esplora album \(4 foto\) >](#)
- [Vai alla biografia >](#)



Medaglia Faini Diamante

La prematura morte di Diamante Medaglia Faini evitò che ella riuscisse a scrivere o pubblicare un lavoro matematico o fisico. Nonostante ciò, il suo...

- [Esplora album \(4 foto\) >](#)
- [Vai alla biografia >](#)



Freda Elena

Sono numerosi i lavori di Vito Volterra, padre dell'analisi funzionale e una delle figure più autorevoli del panorama scientifico italiano nei primi...

- [Esplora album \(6 foto\) >](#)
- [Vai alla biografia >](#)

[vedi tutte le biografie >>](#)

Women *in* Mathematics

BEST KNOWN FOR: being recognised as the first woman to make a substantial contribution to the development of mathematics.



Hypatia
(355–415/416)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her translation of and commentary of Isaac Newton's Principia. Her translation and comments are still considered the standard French translation.



Émilie du Châtelet
(1706–1749)

Maria Agnesi
(1718–1799)



BEST KNOWN FOR: being the first woman to write a mathematics handbook. She was also the first woman appointed as a mathematics professor at a university.

Marie-Sophie Germain
(1776–1831)



BEST KNOWN FOR: her correspondence with Lagrange, Legendre and Gauss under a male pseudonym. She was one of the pioneers of elasticity theory and did foundational work on Fermat's Last Theorem.



Mary Somerville
née Fairfax
(1780–1872)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being a polymath who studied mathematics and astronomy. She was one of the two females who were elected as first female Honorary Members of the Royal Astronomical Society. The Somerville College of the University of Oxford is named in her honour.

BEST KNOWN FOR: working with Charles Babbage on his proposed analytical engine. She found that the machine could be used for more than calculations and wrote the first algorithm that could be carried out by such a machine.



Ada Lovelace
(1815–1852)



Florence Nightingale
(1820–1910)

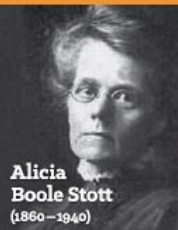
BEST KNOWN FOR: (besides being the founder of modern nursing) her work in statistics, such as inventing the polar area graph, which she used to translate the numbers to the public and politicians.

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work on analysis, partial differential equations, and mechanics. She was the first woman becoming a full professor in northern Europe and one of the first women editors of a scientific journal.



Sofya Vasilyevna Kovalevskaya
(1850–1891)

BEST KNOWN FOR: coining the term polytope, a four-dimensional convex solid and discovering six regular ones.



Alicia Boole Stott
(1860–1940)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the first woman to obtain the top score in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos exams. She did not receive the title of Senior Wrangler, as only men were then ranked.

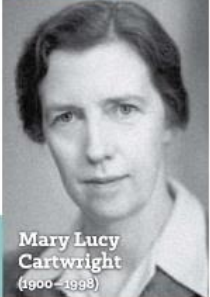


Philippa Garrett Fawcett
(1868–1948)



Emmy Noether
(1882–1935)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in abstract algebra and theoretical physics. Especially Noether's theorem and Noether's Ring, both for elementary particle physics and general relativity.



Mary Lucy Cartwright
(1900–1998)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being one of the pioneers of chaos theory. Cartwright was the first woman becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society, receiving the Sylvester Medal, being President of the Mathematical Association and of the London Mathematical Society.



Gertrude Mary Cox
(1900–1978)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work on experimental design in statistics. Cox became the first woman elected to the International Statistical Institute.



Marie-Louise Dubreil-Jacotin
(1905–1972)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the second woman to earn a doctorate in pure mathematics and the first woman to become a full professor of mathematics in France. In addition to her expertise in fluid mechanics and abstract algebra, she authored a work in the history of mathematics.



Ruth Moufang
(1905–1977)

BEST KNOWN FOR: ground-breaking work on non-associative algebraic structures, including the Moufang loops named after her and a new branch of geometry called Moufang planes.

"la Natura ha predisposto anche le menti femminili ad ogni tipo di scienza e di sapere: quindi si comportano in maniera piuttosto ingiusta quelli che vietano loro completamente l'insegnamento delle arti liberali, soprattutto per la ragione che questi loro studi non solo non saranno dannosi alla vita privata e pubblica, ma anzi molto utili." Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1738)



Five Hidden Figures



Dorothy Vaughan
(1910-2008)



Katherine Johnson
(1918-2020)




Mary Jackson
(1921-2005)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the first Hungarian woman to become an Academic Doctor of Mathematics. She is known as the "founding mother of linkers" for her work in the award-winning program used for the first time to be elected to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



Rózsa Péter
(1905-1977)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being a computer scientist with a PhD in Mathematics. She invented one of the first linkers (i.e. link editors), and was the first to originate the theory of machine-independent programming languages.



Grace Brewster Murray Hoppe née Murray
(1906-1992)

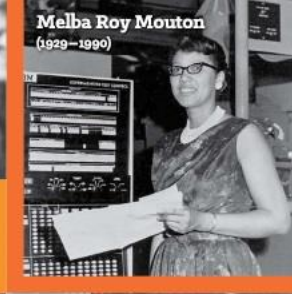
Joan Elisabeth Lowther Murray née Clarke
(1917-1996)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the only female practitioner of Banburismus (i.e. a cryptanalytic process developed by Alan Turing during World War II) during her recruitment at the Government Code and Cypher School. She became the deputy head of her section afterwards.



Melba Roy Mouton
(1929-1990)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work on group theory and Lie algebras. She was the first Spaniard to obtain a Fulbright scholarship for doctoral studies in mathematics.



Christine Darden
(b. 1942)

The Women Computers of NASA

A group of women mathematicians, human computers and later programmers at NASA, NASA and Langley Research Centre who contributed considerably to the American Space race.

Starting with 5 female mathematicians on staff in 1935, in 1946 there were 400.

NOTABLE MEMBERS ARE: Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Melba Roy Mouton, and Christine Darden.



Olga Aleksandrovna Ladyzhenskaya
(1922-2004)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work on partial differential equations, fluid dynamics, and the convergence of a finite difference method for the Navier-Stokes equations. She was in the shortlist for the Fields Medal in 1958.



Phyllis Nicolson née Lockett
(1917-1968)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in numerical analysis with John Crank on the Crank-Nicolson method. During her PhD studies at the University of Manchester she became a proficient user of Fortran's differential analyzer.



Julia Robinson
(1919-1985)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her contributions to computability theory and computational complexity theory.




Anneli Lax
(1922-1999)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her contributions to mathematical education and mathematical publishing. She introduced the inclusion of language skills in mathematical education.



Yvonne Choquet-Bruhat
(b. 1923)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her contributions to the study of Einstein's general theory of relativity. She was the first woman to be elected as a full member of the French Academy of Sciences and is the Grand Officer of the Légion d'honneur.



Olga Arsenievna Oleinik
(1925-2001)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her pioneering work on the theory of algebraic partial differential equations; the theory of strongly inhomogeneous elastic media, and the mathematical theory of boundary layers.



Maria Wonenburger
(1927-2014)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work on ergodic theory. She proved theorems concerning unipotent flows on homogeneous spaces, known as Ratner's theorems, and received numerous prizes for her work.



Shakuntala Devi
(1929-2013)

BEST KNOWN FOR: earning a place in the 1982 Guinness Book of World Records for her arithmetic abilities. She was known as the "Human Computer" (e.g. she mentally calculated the multiplication of two 13-digit numbers in 28 seconds).



Marina Evseevna Ratner
(1938-2017)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in representation theory. She received multiple awards and recognitions for outstanding research. In 2014, she was appointed as commander of the Order of St. Olav by the Norwegian King for her work in mathematics.



Nancy Jane Kopell
(b. 1942)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in the area of applied mathematics with the topic of over 2000 biological rhythms. She is the Director and Co-founder of the Cognitive Rhythms Collaborative. She received several honours including the John von Neumann Prize.



Idun Reiten
(b. 1942)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the founder of modern geometric analysis.



Karen Uhlenbeck
(b. 1942)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in using mathematical methods to develop image processing techniques. Her name is associated with wavelets which are used in the JPEG 2000 standard. She received several recognitions and awards, including Princess of Asturias Award (in 2020) for Technical and Scientific Research.



Ingrid Daubechies
(b. 1954)

BEST KNOWN FOR: her work in algebraic geometry especially Hodge theory and its application to concrete classical problems.



Claire Voisin
(b. 1962)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the first Iranian to receive the Fields Medal and the only woman to date. Her research topics included Teichmüller theory, hyperbolic geometry, ergodic theory, and symplectic geometry.



Maryam Mirzakhani
(1977-2017)

BEST KNOWN FOR: being the first Iranian to receive the Fields Medal and the only woman to date. Her research topics included Teichmüller theory, hyperbolic geometry, ergodic theory, and symplectic geometry.




The project was developed and coordinated by Ms. Silvy Hendriks, Dr. Houry Melkonian, and Prof. Maria Vlasiou. Additional contributions were made by Dr. Tom Ritchie and the following students of the University of Exeter: Amber Ellis, Sophia Jaffer, Anija Navaratnam, and Sophie Peel.

Design by Jana Kleineberg | kleineberg.co.uk