



Math for the people, by the people.

Maria Gaetana Agnesi

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Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718 - 1799) Italian linguist, mathematician and women's rights activist, best known for her study of the versiera curve, nowadays known as the “witch of Agnesi” or Agnesi curve. Her *Instituzioni Analitiche* was one of the first mathematics books printed in Italian (although she could have as easily written it in Latin or Greek) and was of great use to many other mathematicians, Joseph-Louis Lagrange (in a French translation) among them. After the death of her father, she devoted herself to theology and charitable work.

References

- [1] H. Kennedy “Maria Gaetana Agnesi” in *Women of Mathematics: A Bibliographic Sourcebook* L. Grinstein, P. Campbell, ed.s New York: Greenwood Press (1987): 1 - 5