

Maria Agnesi (1718-1799)

Agnesi was from Italy and is credited with publishing the first book to give a unified treatment of differential and integral calculus, Instituzioni Analitiche ad uso della gioventù italiana. This was in 1748, when she was about 30 years old. Soon thereafter, Agnesi became the first woman ever appointed a professor of mathematics, at Bologna, though she did not actually take up the position. She turned from mathematics to religious service and charity work, especially

caring for the poor and infirm. She is also remembered for the attachment of her name to a cubic curve in the plane known as the Witch of Agnesi.

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