Sophie Germain (1776–1831)

Germain was from Paris and self-studied mathematics as a teenager, to the point that she could read the works of Newton and Euler. While not allowed to attend mathematics lectures at the Ecole Polytechnique, Germain was able to advance her studies by obtaining course notes. Using a male pseudonym she corresponded with both Lagrange and Gauss, who later learned of her true identity and then promoted her work. Germain made significant contributions to efforts to prove Fermat's Last Theorem, and also to elasticity. She was the first woman to win a prize from the Paris Academy of Sciences. The French Academy of Sciences awards an annual Sophie Germain Prize.

This poster is part of the EvenQuads project, which combines innovative mathematical card games with learning about amazing women mathematicians. The project celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Association for Women in Mathematics.

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