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## Sophie Germain

Revolutionary Mathematician  
Second Edition

DORA MUSIELAK



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# Sophie Germain

## Revolutionary Mathematician

- **First comprehensive biography of French mathematician Sophie Germain describing her contributions to mathematics and her efforts to prove Fermat's Last Theorem**
- **Includes many lesser-known facts about Sophie Germain and her contemporaries, including Gauss, Legendre, Lagrange, Libri, Poisson, Fourier, and Cauchy.**
- **Fully referenced, this book offers a unique perspective on the scientific environment that flourished in nineteenth-century France**

This biography of the mathematician, Sophie Germain, paints a rich portrait of a brilliant and complex woman, the mathematics she developed, her associations with Gauss, Legendre, and other leading researchers, and the tumultuous times in which she lived. Sophie Germain stood right between Gauss and Legendre, and both publicly recognized her scientific efforts. Unlike her female predecessors and contemporaries, Sophie Germain was an impressive mathematician and made lasting contributions to both number theory and the theories of plate vibrations and elasticity. She was able to walk with ease across the bridge between the fields of pure mathematics and engineering physics. Though isolated and snubbed by her peers, Sophie Germain was the first woman to win the prize of mathematics from the French Academy of Sciences. She is the only woman who contributed to the proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. In this unique biography, Dora Musielak has done the impossible she has chronicled Sophie Germain's brilliance through her life and work in mathematics, in a way that is simultaneously informative, comprehensive, and accurate.

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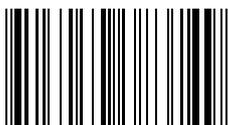
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