



João Caramalho Domingues

Lacroix and the Calculus

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Silvestre François Lacroix (Paris, 1765 - *ibid.*, 1843) was a most influential mathematical book author. His most famous work is the three-volume *Traité du calcul différentiel et du calcul intégral* (1797-1800; 2nd ed. 1810-1819) – an encyclopedic appraisal of 18th-century calculus which remained the standard reference on the subject through much of the 19th century, in spite of Cauchy's reform of the subject in the 1820's. *Lacroix and the Calculus* is the first major study of Lacroix's large *Traité*. It uses the unique and massive bibliography given by Lacroix to explore late 18th-century calculus, and the way it is reflected in Lacroix's account. Several particular aspects are addressed in detail, including: the foundations of differential calculus, analytic and differential geometry, conceptions of the integral, and types of solutions of differential equations (singular/complete/general integrals, geometrical interpretations, and generality of arbitrary functions).

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