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The sixty-fourth article of the Instituzioni Analitiche

In 1748, after ten years of hard work, Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718–1799) published the first Calculus book designed for teaching and written in Italian: *Instituzioni Analitiche ad uso della Gioventu' Italiana* (Analytic Institutions for the use of the Italian Youth). In the introduction to her work, Agnesi wrote: *...when considering the Integral Calculus, the Reader will find a completely new method for Polynomials, which has not appeared anywhere else; it belongs to the famous and never sufficiently praised Count Jacopo Riccati, Nobleman very proficient in all sciences, and well known in the literary world. He wanted to do me the favor of letting me know about it [the method], favor that I did not deserve, and I want to give him, and the Public, the appropriate justice, as it should properly be done.* What was this new method, presented in the sixty-fourth article of the book? Was it really about polynomials? Is it as useful as Agnesi seemed to think?