

# Émilie Du Châtelet: The Daring Genius of the Enlightenment

Émilie du Châtelet was a brilliant mathematician, physicist, and philosopher who made significant contributions to the Enlightenment. She was born in Paris in 1706 to a wealthy and influential family. Her father was a high-ranking official in the French government, and her mother was a well-educated woman who encouraged her daughter's intellectual pursuits.

Du Châtelet showed a talent for mathematics and science at a young age. She studied with some of the leading scientists of her time, including Pierre Louis Moreau de Maupertuis and Alexis Claude Clairaut. She also corresponded with Leonhard Euler, one of the greatest mathematicians of the 18th century.

In 1733, du Châtelet published her first major work, a translation of Newton's Principia Mathematica into French. This translation was highly praised by scientists and helped to make Newton's work more accessible to a wider audience.



## Emilie Du Chatelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment

by Judith P. Zinsser

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 400 pages



Du Châtelet also made original contributions to mathematics and physics. She developed a new method for solving partial differential equations, and she worked on the problem of three bodies. She also wrote a number of important papers on optics and mechanics.

In addition to her work in mathematics and science, du Châtelet was also a philosopher. She was a close friend of Voltaire, and she shared his commitment to the Enlightenment ideals of reason and progress. She wrote a number of philosophical essays, including a critique of Leibniz's metaphysics.

Du Châtelet died in 1749 at the age of 42. Her death was a great loss to the Enlightenment movement. She was a brilliant scientist and philosopher who made significant contributions to our understanding of the world.

## **Legacy**

Émilie du Châtelet is remembered as one of the most important figures in the history of science. Her work in mathematics, physics, and philosophy helped to shape the Enlightenment and laid the foundation for modern science.

Du Châtelet's legacy is also important for women in science. She was one of the first women to make significant contributions to the field, and her work helped to open doors for other women who wanted to pursue careers in science.

Today, there are a number of schools and universities named after Émilie du Châtelet. There is also a crater on the moon named in her honor.

## Further Reading

- [Émilie du Châtelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment] (<https://www.Our Book Library.com/milie-Chatelet-Daring-Genius-Enlightenment/dp/0486805521>) by Judith P. Zinsser
- [The Mathematical and Philosophical Work of Émilie du Châtelet](#) by Emily J. Grosholz
- [Émilie du Châtelet: A Life of the Mind](#) by Ruth Hagengruber



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