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Louis Leithold

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## THE CALCULUS VIRGIN

Louis Leithold

Author of "The Calculus with Analytic Geometry," sixth edition, published by Harper Collins.

d'Arcy Hayman, artist and poet, is a former faculty member of the University of California at Los Angeles and Columbia University. For twenty years from 1960 through 1980, she was head of the International Arts Program for the United Nations in Paris.

In March of 1988, my good friend d'Arcy attended as an observer a seminar I conducted for teachers of advanced placement calculus that consisted of a discussion of the theory behind some important calculus topics as well as techniques of teaching them. I did not encourage her presence because she had no background in mathematics.

Nothing in my many years of teaching calculus had prepared me for her reaction to the language of calculus she heard at this seminar. She made associations with the literary content of this language and brought to the words the cultural references that have meaning to her as an artist and world traveler. She characterized her response to the seminar as both passionate and thrilling.

I was so excited about this revelation that the following month I gave a lecture about it to a group of four hundred calculus teachers at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Since then by popular demand I have repeated this lecture to other groups of calculus teachers. The enthusiasm generated by these presentations persuaded d'Arcy to make drawings of images she associates with the vocabulary of calculus. She has also written an explanation of the symbolism of each drawing.

In January, 1992 at the annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America in Baltimore I shall conduct a session describing d'Arcy's experience at my seminar. At this session, titled THE CALCULUS VIRGIN, I will show some of d'Arcy's drawings and read the accompanying explanations. To quote d'Arcy, "Perhaps these images will bring you another view of the language of calculus to illustrate one of the wonderful things you say in that language: 'both sides exist.'"